

Testimony in favor of LS 6687 and LS 5660
The Black Institute

My name is Bertha Lewis. I am the Founder and President of The Black Institute, and I am here today to speak in favor of LS 6687 and LS 5660.

Although the “Three-fifths” clause was nullified by the 13th and 14th amendments to the constitution, the language remains. This language explicitly devalues and dehumanizes black lives. This lingering symbol casts a shadow over our country.

Symbols have power. In the face of nationwide efforts to gut voting rights, an epidemic of racially targeted police violence, and rising racial rhetoric from the radical right, it is more important than ever before that America faces its history with clear eyes and honest hearts. We cannot afford to ignore the legacy of discrimination – we recognize it, remember it, and work to tear down symbols of oppression and hatred wherever they are found.

The Black Institute supports the recognition of March Fifth as “Three Fifths Awareness Day” and the resolution to call on Congress to directly negate the language of Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

Date: 4/18/20

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tamika Altabing

Address: 1079 Lydig Avenue Bx N/ 10461

I represent: Justice League NYC

Address: 310 West 43rd Street, NYC

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Name: Bertha Lewis

Address: 39 B'way

I represent: The Black Institute

Address: 39 B'way

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Name: Louis Goldstein

Address: 2015 St. Paul Ave.

I represent: Comm. For Effective Leadership

Address: _____

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(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Michelle Alleyne ^{or call} Recovery Worker

Address: 1920 McGowan Ave

I represent: Distinguished Women of September 11th

Address: Land owners

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