

HOPE FOR THE NEW YEAR



Marian W. Edelman

Marian Wright Edelman

This is a time to stand and fight for the futures of our children and the soul of our nation with all our might! I am strengthened every morning by reading these words over my kitchen sink — based on a poem first published in 1905 and anonymously adapted over the years. Its bottom line: Never, ever give up fighting for what you believe in.

If you think you are beaten, you are;
If you think that you dare not, you don't;
If you'd like to win, but you think you can't,
It's almost a cinch that you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you've lost;
For out in the world you'll find
Success begins with a fellow's will,
It's all in the state of mind.

Full many a race is lost
Ere even a step is run,
And many a coward falls
Ere even his work's begun.

Think high and your deeds will grow,
Think low and you'll fall behind.
Think that you can and you will,
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you're outclassed, you are;
You have to think high to rise,
You have to be sure of yourself
Before you can win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man,
But sooner or later the man who wins, is
The fellow who thinks he can.

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I also share a prayer of surrender:

O God, Thou knowest that I cannot read, understand, or retain all I think I need to know.
Remember for me and understand for me what I do need to know.

O God, Thou knowest I am bone weary and worn down after many years of labor.
Be Thou my strength, energy, and perseverance.

O God, Thou knowest that my internal nerve and voice quaver unconfidently amidst all those who speak with unjust certainty.

Be Thou my confidence and clarity and anchor.

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Black People More Prone To Effects of Marijuana Due To 'Genetics,' 'Character Makeup,' Kansas Republican Says

Kansas State Representative Steve Alford said Sunday blacks are more affected by marijuana because of their "character makeup" and "their genetics" when trying to explain why drugs should be "outlawed" to a room of 60 people—none of whom were African American.

Alford made the comment during a legislative coffee session in response to a comment that marijuana would offer an economic boost to Kansas.

The 75-year-old Republican also cited the Jim Crow era when all drugs were outlawed in Kansas, according to The Garden City Telegram.

"What was the reason why they did that?" he said. "One of the reasons why, I hate to say it, was that the African Americans, they were basically users and they basically responded the worst off to those drugs just because of their character makeup, their genetics and that. And so basically what we're trying to do is we're trying to do a complete reverse with people not remembering what has happened



Representative Steve Alford (R) in the past."

Apparently, Alford was referring to the time Harry Anslinger became the first commissioner of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, when he led a crusade against drugs including marijuana, which eventually launched the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937.

Anslinger suggested that marijuana use made people violent and insane and once made the case that jazz musicians believed in Satan because of the drug.

"Reefer makes darkies think they're as good as white men," he said.

"I wish I could show you what a small marihuana cigaret can do to one of our degenerate Spanish-speaking residents," he also said.

After the event, The Garden City Telegram followed up with Alford to see if he stood by his comments. He continued to harp on the idea that genetics play a role in how people are affected by cannabis.

"There are certain groups of people, their genetics, the way their makeup is, the chemicals will affect them differently," Alford said. "That's what I should have said was drugs affect people differently instead of being more specific."

Alford denied to the Associated Press that he is a racist.

"Basically, I got called a racist, which I'm really not, and it's just the way people — the interpretation of people," he said. "To me, I'm trying to look at what's really the best for Kansas."

Nevertheless, the Republican had to issue an apology Monday afternoon. "I was wrong, I regret my comments and I sincerely apologize to anyone whom I have hurt," Alford said in a statement cited by The Topeka Capital-Journal.

2018's States with the Most Racial Progress

With Martin Luther King, Jr. Day around the corner and 92 percent of blacks saying whites benefit a great deal or a fair amount from advantages not available to blacks — versus 46 percent of whites who agreed with that statement — the personal-finance website WalletHub conducted an in-depth analysis of 2018's States with the Most Racial Progress.

To measure America's progress in harmonizing racial groups, WalletHub measured the gaps between blacks and whites across 23 key indicators of equality and integration in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The data set ranges from median annual income to standardized-test scores to voter turnout.

This report examines the differences between only blacks and whites in light of the high-profile police-brutality incidents that sparked the Black Lives Matter movement and the holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who played a prominent role in the Civil Rights Movement to end segregation and discrimination against blacks.

Most Racially Integrated States States with the Most Racial Progress

1	Hawaii	1	Wyoming
2	New Mexico	2	Texas
3	Kentucky	3	Georgia
4	Arizona	4	New Mexico
5	Texas	5	Maryland
6	Wyoming	6	California
7	West Virginia	7	Mississippi
8	Maryland	8	Arkansas
9	Nevada	9	New Jersey
10	Delaware	10	Alabama

Key Stats

The District of Columbia has the lowest gap in homeownership rates between whites and blacks, at 11.88 percent. Connecticut has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1970, with a change of 7.71 percent.

Hawaii has the lowest gap in median annual household incomes between whites and blacks, at 8.08 percent. Wyoming has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1979, with a change of 36.50 percent.

South Dakota has the lowest gap in unemployment rates between whites and blacks, at 1.94 percent. North Dakota has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1970, with a change of 12.25 percent.

Hawaii has the lowest gap in poverty rates between whites and blacks, at 1.55 percent. Mississippi has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1970, with a change of 24.27 percent.

Hawaii has the lowest gap in business-ownership rates between whites and blacks, at 38.40 percent. Texas has made the most progress in closing this gap since 2002, with a change of 7.08 percent.

Idaho has the lowest gap in the share of adults 25 years and over with at least a bachelor's degree between whites and blacks, at 0.07 percent, and has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1970, with a change of 6.42 percent.



Letter Policy

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