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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs that include the history of peoples of African descent in the settling and founding of America, the economic and political environments that led to the development, institutionalization, and abolition of slavery and its impact on all Americans, the exploration and expansion of America, impact on and contributions to the development and enhancement of American life, United States history, literature, the economy, politics, body of laws, and culture, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mrs. BEATTY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs that include the history of peoples of African descent in the settling and founding of America, the economic and political environments that led to the development, institutionalization, and abolition of slavery and its impact on all Americans, the exploration and expansion of America, impact on and contributions to the development and enhancement of American life, United States

history, literature, the economy, politics, body of laws, and culture, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Black History is Amer-  
5       ican History Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) Since before its founding, the United States  
9       of America has benefited from and been enhanced by  
10      the integral role African Americans have played in  
11      our country’s history and contributions to the world.

12              (2) African-American history does not begin in  
13      the Americas. It can be traced back to the great em-  
14      pires of West Africa beginning in A.D. 790, which  
15      aided the establishment and survival of colonies in  
16      America and the New World, generally, and fought  
17      against European oppression.

18              (3) African Americans have represented a sig-  
19      nificant portion of the American population from  
20      nearly 20 percent at the signing of the Declaration  
21      of Independence, almost all of whom, if not all, were  
22      victims of the largest forced deportations in recorded  
23      history, the transatlantic slave trade and resulting  
24      African diaspora. It is estimated over 10,000,000

1 free Africans were enslaved between the mid-fif-  
2 teenth and nineteenth centuries during the diaspora.

3 (4) Slavery was not abolished and African  
4 Americans not acknowledged as American citizens  
5 until the mid-nineteenth century, servitude did not  
6 abate their contributions to the settlement, growth,  
7 and development of the United States, which contin-  
8 ued through Post-Reconstruction, Jim Crow, indus-  
9 trialization, World Wars and conflicts, innovation  
10 and inventiveness, constitutional progress, and every  
11 aspect of American society.

12 (5) During the civil rights movement of the  
13 1950s and 1960s, civil rights leaders and activists  
14 championed the fight for equal rights, including vot-  
15 ing rights, for all African Americans.

16 (6) The seminal case of *Brown v. Board of*  
17 *Education*, decided May 17, 1954, found that the  
18 decades-old policy of separate but equal access to  
19 education was inherently unequal, and the segrega-  
20 tion of Black public-school students was no longer  
21 the law of the land.

22 (7) African Americans continue to fight dis-  
23 crimination, structural racism, economic inequities,  
24 and benign and overt omission of the integral role  
25 they played in our country's rise to greatness.

1           (8) A number of States have passed educational  
2 laws requiring Black history be incorporated into the  
3 curricula of all public schools.

4           (9) Congress established the National Museum  
5 of African American History and Culture in 2003  
6 after decades of efforts to promote and highlight the  
7 contributions of African Americans, which serves as  
8 an indication of the national importance of exam-  
9 ining Black history. Since opening in 2016, the mu-  
10 seum has worked to educate the public on the Amer-  
11 ican story through the lens of African-American his-  
12 tory and culture and provide educators, parents,  
13 caregivers, and students with tools and resources on  
14 the African-American experience, its national im-  
15 pact, race, racism, and the importance of tolerance  
16 and inclusivity.

17          (10) According to a 2015 research study con-  
18 ducted by the National Museum of African Amer-  
19 ican History and Culture and reported in Research  
20 into the State of African American History and Cul-  
21 ture in K–12 Public Schools, key findings indicated  
22 that teachers considered Black history as influential  
23 in understanding the complexity of United States  
24 history.

1           (11) The importance of Black history is re-  
2       flected in the National Assessment of Educational  
3       Progress United States History framework, from  
4       pre-colonization through contemporary America.

5           (12) The Federal Government, through support  
6       for educational activities of national museums estab-  
7       lished under Federal law, can assist teachers in ef-  
8       forts to incorporate historically accurate instruction  
9       on the comprehensive history of African Americans  
10      and students in their exploration of Black history as  
11      an integral part of American history.

12 **SEC. 3. AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS EDUCATION.**

13       (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—Section 2231(a) of the  
14   Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
15   U.S.C. 6661(a)) is amended—

16           (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
17       inserting “, which shall include Black history,” after  
18       “American history”; and

19           (2) in paragraph (2)—

20               (A) by inserting “which shall include Black  
21       history,” after “American history,”; and

22               (B) by inserting “, which shall include  
23       Black history” after “traditional American his-  
24       tory”.

1 (b) PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ACADEMIES  
2 FOR AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.—Section 2232 of  
3 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
4 U.S.C. 6662) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, which  
7 shall include Black history,” after “American  
8 History”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, which  
10 shall include Black history,” after “American  
11 History”;

12 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “, which  
13 shall include Black history,” after “American his-  
14 tory”;

15 (3) in subsection (e)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1)—

17 (i) by inserting “, which shall include  
18 Black history,” after “American history”;

19 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

20 (I) by inserting “, which shall in-  
21 clude Black history,” after “teachers  
22 of American history”; and

23 (II) by inserting “, which shall  
24 include Black history,” after “subjects  
25 of American history”; and

1 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
2 “, which shall include Black history,” after  
3 “American history”;

4 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, which  
5 shall include Black history,” after “American  
6 history”; and

7 (C) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, and  
8 with the Smithsonian Institution’s National  
9 Museum of African American History and Cul-  
10 ture initiative providing programs and resources  
11 for educators and students” after “National  
12 Parks”; and

13 (4) in subsection (f)—

14 (A) by inserting “, which shall include  
15 Black history,” after “American history”;

16 (B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “,  
17 which shall include Black history,” after  
18 “American history”; and

19 (C) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “,  
20 which shall include Black history,” after  
21 “American history”.

22 (c) NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Section 2233 of the Ele-  
23 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
24 6663) is amended—

1           (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “which shall  
2       include Black history,” after “American history,”;  
3       and

4           (2) in subsection (b), by inserting “which shall  
5       include Black history,” after “American history,”.

6       (d) NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL  
7       PROGRESS.—Section 303(b)(2)(D) of the National As-  
8       sessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (20  
9       U.S.C. 9622(b)(2)(D)) is amended by inserting “(which  
10      shall include Black history)” after “history,”.