

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6336

To direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue depicting Frederick Douglass from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in Emancipation Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2012

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California (for himself and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue depicting Frederick Douglass from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in Emancipation Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Frederick Douglass, born Frederick Augus-
6 tus Washington Bailey in Maryland in 1818, escaped
7 from slavery and became a leading writer, orator,

1 and publisher, and one of the Nation’s most influen-
2 tial advocates for abolitionism, women’s suffrage,
3 and the equality of all people.

4 (2) The contributions of Frederick Douglass
5 over many decades were crucial to the abolition of
6 slavery, the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th
7 Amendments to the Constitution of the United
8 States, the support for women’s suffrage, and the
9 advancement of African-Americans after the Civil
10 War.

11 (3) Self-educated, Frederick Douglass wrote
12 several influential books, including his best-selling
13 first autobiography, “Narrative of the Life of Fred-
14 erick Douglass, an American Slave”, published in
15 1845.

16 (4) Frederick Douglass worked tirelessly for the
17 emancipation of African-American slaves, was a piv-
18 otal figure in Underground Railroad activities, and
19 was an inspiration to enslaved Americans who as-
20 pired to freedom.

21 (5) As a well-known speaker in great demand,
22 Frederick Douglass traveled widely, visiting coun-
23 tries such as England and Ireland, to spread the
24 message of emancipation and equal rights.

1 (6) Frederick Douglass was the only African-
2 American to attend the Seneca Falls Convention, a
3 women's rights convention held in Seneca Falls, New
4 York in 1848.

5 (7) During the Civil War, Frederick Douglass
6 recruited African-Americans to volunteer as soldiers
7 for the Union Army, including 2 of his sons, who
8 served nobly in the Fifty-Fourth Massachusetts
9 Regiment.

10 (8) In 1872, Frederick Douglass moved to
11 Washington, DC, after a fire destroyed his home in
12 Rochester, New York.

13 (9) Frederick Douglass was appointed as a
14 United States Marshal in 1877 and was named Re-
15 corder of Deeds for the District of Columbia in
16 1881.

17 (10) Frederick Douglass became the first Afri-
18 can-American to receive a vote for nomination as
19 President of the United States at a major party con-
20 vention for the 1888 Republican National Conven-
21 tion.

22 (11) From 1889 to 1891, Frederick Douglass
23 served as minister-resident and consul-general to the
24 Republic of Haiti.

1 (12) Frederick Douglass was recognized around
2 the world as one of the most important political ac-
3 tivists in the history of the United States.

4 (13) Frederick Douglass died in 1895 in Wash-
5 ington, DC and is buried in Rochester, New York.

6 (14) Frederick Douglass's achievements and in-
7 fluence on the history of the United States merit
8 recognition in the United States Capitol.

9 **SEC. 2. ACCEPTANCE OF STATUE OF FREDERICK DOUG-**
10 **LASS FOR PLACEMENT IN EMANCIPATION**
11 **HALL.**

12 (a) ACCEPTANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act, the Joint Committee
14 on the Library shall accept from the District of Columbia
15 the donation of a statue depicting Frederick Douglass,
16 subject to the terms and conditions that the Joint Com-
17 mittee considers appropriate.

18 (b) PLACEMENT.—The Joint Committee shall place
19 the statue accepted under subsection (a) in a suitable per-
20 manent location in Emancipation Hall of the Capitol Vis-
21 itor Center.

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