

112<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> 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.

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## 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

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## 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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