

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7161

To direct the Smithsonian Institution and the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to jointly carry out the COVID–19 Pandemic Memorial Quilt Project to honor and remember Americans who have lost their lives to the COVID–19 Pandemic, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2020

Mr. CARSON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MOORE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Smithsonian Institution and the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to jointly carry out the COVID–19 Pandemic Memorial Quilt Project to honor and remember Americans who have lost their lives to the COVID–19 Pandemic, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “COVID–19 Memorial
3 Quilt Act of 2020”.

4 **SEC. 2. COVID–19 PANDEMIC MEMORIAL QUILT PROJECT.**

5 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION.**—The Sec-
6 retary of the Smithsonian Institution and the Director of
7 the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress
8 shall jointly carry out a project to be known as the
9 “COVID–19 Pandemic Memorial Quilt Project” to honor
10 and remember Americans who have lost their lives to the
11 COVID–19 Pandemic.

12 (b) **SCOPE OF PROJECT.**—Under the Project, the
13 Secretary and the Director shall—

14 (1) provide for the design, creation, and display
15 of a memorial quilt consisting of individual panels in
16 memory of those who have lost their lives to the
17 COVID–19 Pandemic; and

18 (2) carry out other commemorative program-
19 ming and exhibits to honor the victims of the
20 COVID–19 Pandemic.

21 (c) **SPECIFICS OF MEMORIAL QUILT.**—

22 (1) **SPECIFICS.**—In providing for the design,
23 creation, and display of the memorial quilt described
24 in subsection (b)(1), the Secretary and Director
25 shall provide for the following:

26 (A) The design and creation of the quilt.

1 (B) Agreements with the Architect of the
2 Capitol for the first display of the quilt to be
3 held on the United States Capitol Grounds.

4 (C) Agreements with the National Park
5 Service for the second display of the quilt to be
6 held on the National Mall.

7 (D) Agreements with museums, institu-
8 tions of higher education, and other appropriate
9 persons to display portions of the quilt, and to
10 provide such museums, institutions, and other
11 persons with educational materials relating to
12 the creation of the quilt and the history of the
13 Pandemic.

14 (E) Making information on the quilt avail-
15 able on the official public website of the Smith-
16 sonian Institution and the American Folklife
17 Center at the Library of Congress.

18 (F) The provision for the appropriate stor-
19 age and preservation of the quilt.

20 (2) ASSISTANCE TO ARTISTS FROM NATIONAL
21 ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.—There are authorized
22 to be appropriated to the National Endowment for
23 the Arts such sums as may be necessary for the
24 Chairperson of the National Endowment for the
25 Arts to make grants-in-aid to individual artists

1 under section 5(c) of the National Foundation of the
2 Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
3 954(c)) to assist such artists with the design and
4 preparation of panels for the quilt described in sub-
5 section (b)(1).

6 (d) PLAN OF CONGRESSIONAL ADVISORY PANEL.—
7 The Secretary and the Director shall carry out the Project
8 in accordance with the plan submitted by the Congres-
9 sional Advisory Panel on Honoring Victims of the
10 COVID–19 Pandemic under section 3.

11 (e) ENSURING PARTICIPATION OF NATIVE AMERI-
12 CANS AND RESIDENTS OF TERRITORIES.—In carrying out
13 the Project, the Secretary and the Director shall take
14 steps to ensure the participation of Native Americans,
15 tribal nations, and residents of territories and possessions
16 of the United States.

17 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL ADVISORY PANEL ON HONORING**
18 **VICTIMS OF COVID–19 PANDEMIC.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Con-
20 gressional Advisory Panel on Honoring Victims of the
21 COVID–19 Pandemic.

22 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Panel shall be
24 composed of—

1 (A) 25 members appointed by the chair of
2 the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
3 structure of the House of Representatives in
4 consultation with the ranking minority member
5 of the Committee and the chair and ranking
6 minority member of the Committee on House
7 Administration of the House of Representatives;
8 and

9 (B) the Secretary of the Smithsonian Insti-
10 tution and the Director of the American
11 Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, who
12 shall each serve as an ex officio member.

13 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The members of the Ad-
14 visory Panel who are appointed under subparagraph
15 (A) of paragraph (1) shall include public health ex-
16 perts, public health advocates, educators, research-
17 ers, families and individuals affected by the COVID-
18 19 Pandemic, public health workers including physi-
19 cians and nurses, elected leaders of local govern-
20 ments, representatives of communities that are heav-
21 ily affected by the Pandemic, and front-line per-
22 sonnel.

23 (3) DEADLINE.—The members of the Advisory
24 Panel shall be appointed not later than 90 days
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (4) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Advisory
2 Panel shall serve without pay, but shall receive trav-
3 el expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsist-
4 ence, in accordance with applicable provisions under
5 subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States
6 Code.

7 (5) VACANCY.—A vacancy in the Advisory
8 Panel shall be filled in the same manner as the
9 original appointment was made.

10 (c) STAFF.—

11 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Advisory Panel shall
12 appoint and fix the pay of such personnel as it con-
13 siders appropriate.

14 (2) NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL
15 SERVICE LAWS.—The staff of the Advisory Panel
16 may be appointed without regard to the provisions
17 of title 5, United States Code, governing appoint-
18 ments in the competitive service, and may be paid
19 without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and
20 subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to
21 classification and General Schedule pay rates, except
22 that an individual so appointed may not receive pay
23 in excess of the annual rate of basic pay for GS–15
24 of the General Schedule.

1 (3) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Advi-
2 sory Panel may procure temporary and intermittent
3 services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United
4 States Code.

5 (4) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon re-
6 quest of the Advisory Panel, the head of any Federal
7 department or agency may detail, on a reimbursable
8 basis, any of the personnel of that department or
9 agency to the Advisory Panel to assist it in carrying
10 out its duties under this Act

11 (d) PLAN FOR CARRYING OUT PROJECT.—

12 (1) PLAN.—The Advisory Panel shall develop
13 and submit to the Secretary of the Smithsonian In-
14 stitution and the Director of the American Folklife
15 Center at the Library of Congress a plan for the
16 Secretary and Director to carry out the COVID–19
17 Pandemic Memorial Quilt Project under section 2.

18 (2) DEADLINE.—The Advisory Panel shall sub-
19 mit the plan under this subsection to the Secretary
20 and the Director not later than 1 year after the ap-
21 pointment of all of its members.

22 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
23 the request of the Advisory Panel, the Administrator of
24 General Services shall provide to the Advisory Panel, on
25 a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services

1 necessary for the Advisory Panel to carry out its respon-
2 sibilities under this Act.

3 (f) **TERMINATION.**—The Advisory Panel shall termi-
4 nate 6 months after submitting the plan under this sec-
5 tion.

6 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 In addition to the sums authorized to be appropriated
8 to the National Endowment for the Arts under section
9 2(c)(2), there are authorized to be appropriated such sums
10 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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