

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2385

To codify Executive Order 14253 relating to restoring truth and sanity to American history, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 2025

Mr. BANKS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To codify Executive Order 14253 relating to restoring truth and sanity to American history, 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 “Restoring Truth and
5 Sanity to American History Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CODIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 14253.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Over the past decade, Americans have wit-
9 nessed a concerted and widespread effort to rewrite
10 our Nation’s history, replacing objective facts with a

1 distorted narrative driven by ideology rather than
2 truth. This revisionist movement seeks to undermine
3 the remarkable achievements of the United States by
4 casting its founding principles and historical mile-
5 stones in a negative light. Under this historical revi-
6 sion, our Nation’s unparalleled legacy of advancing
7 liberty, individual rights, and human happiness is re-
8 constructed as inherently racist, sexist, oppressive,
9 or otherwise irredeemably flawed. Rather than fos-
10 tering unity and a deeper understanding of our
11 shared past, the widespread effort to rewrite history
12 deepens societal divides and fosters a sense of na-
13 tional shame, disregarding the progress America has
14 made and the ideals that continue to inspire millions
15 around the globe.

16 (2) The prior administration advanced this cor-
17 rosive ideology. At Independence National Historical
18 Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—where our Na-
19 tion declared that all men are created equal—the
20 prior administration sponsored training by an orga-
21 nization that advocates dismantling “Western foun-
22 dations” and “interrogating institutional racism”
23 and pressured National Historical Park rangers that
24 their racial identity should dictate how they convey

1 history to visiting Americans because America is
2 purportedly racist.

3 (3) Once widely respected as a symbol of Amer-
4 ican excellence and a global icon of cultural achieve-
5 ment, the Smithsonian Institution has, in recent
6 years, come under the influence of a divisive, race-
7 centered ideology. This shift has promoted nar-
8 ratives that portray American and Western values as
9 inherently harmful and oppressive. For example, the
10 Smithsonian American Art Museum today features
11 “The Shape of Power: Stories of Race and American
12 Sculpture”, an exhibit representing that “[s]ocieties
13 including the United States have used race to estab-
14 lish and maintain systems of power, privilege, and
15 disenfranchisement.” The exhibit further claims that
16 “sculpture has been a powerful tool in promoting
17 scientific racism” and promotes the view that race is
18 not a biological reality but a social construct, stating
19 “Race is a human invention”.

20 (4) The National Museum of African American
21 History and Culture has proclaimed that “hard
22 work”, “individualism”, and “the nuclear family”
23 are aspects of “White culture”. The forthcoming
24 Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum
25 plans on celebrating the exploits of male athletes

1 participating in women's sports. These are just a
2 few examples.

3 (b) POLICY STATEMENT.—It is the policy of this
4 Act—

5 (1) to restore Federal sites dedicated to history,
6 including parks and museums, to solemn and uplift-
7 ing public monuments that remind Americans of our
8 extraordinary heritage, consistent progress toward
9 becoming a more perfect Union, and unmatched
10 record of advancing liberty, prosperity, and human
11 flourishing;

12 (2) that Museums in our Nation's capital
13 should be places where individuals go to learn—not
14 to be subjected to ideological indoctrination or divi-
15 sive narratives that distort our shared history; and

16 (3) to restore the Smithsonian Institution to its
17 rightful place as a symbol of inspiration and Amer-
18 ican greatness—igniting the imagination of young
19 minds, honoring the richness of American history
20 and innovation, and instilling pride in the hearts of
21 all Americans.

22 (c) SAVING OUR SMITHSONIAN.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Vice President, in con-
24 sultation with the Assistant to the President for Do-

1 domestic Policy and the Special Assistant to the Presi-
2 dent and Senior Associate Staff Secretary, shall—

3 (A) work to effectuate the policies of this
4 Act through the Vice President's role on the
5 Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institu-
6 tion with respect to the Smithsonian Institution
7 and its museums, education and research cen-
8 ters, and the National Zoo, including by seeking
9 to remove from such properties anything that—

10 (i) violates the policy of this Act as
11 articulated in subsection (b) or Federal
12 civil rights laws; or

13 (ii) divides Americans based on race;
14 and

15 (B) recommend to the President any addi-
16 tional actions necessary to fully effectuate such
17 policies.

18 (2) FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS.—The Vice
19 President and the Director of the Office of Manage-
20 ment and Budget shall work with Congress to en-
21 sure that future appropriations to the Smithsonian
22 Institution—

23 (A) prohibit expenditure on exhibits or
24 programs that—

25 (i) degrade shared American values;

1 (ii) divide Americans based on race;

2 or

3 (iii) promote programs or ideologies

4 inconsistent with Federal law, the policy of

5 this Act as articulated in subsection (b), or

6 Federal civil rights laws; and

7 (B) celebrate the achievements of women

8 in the American Women's History Museum and

9 do not recognize men as women in any respect,

10 including by—

11 (i) promoting, celebrating, or favor-

12 ably depicting biological males competing

13 in women's sports, winning awards des-

14 ignated for women, dressing as women, or

15 entering private facilities designated for

16 women;

17 (ii) promoting, celebrating, or favor-

18 ably depicting gender-affirming medicine,

19 especially for minors; or

20 (iii) including any other material that

21 degrades the biological nature of sex or

22 violates Federal civil rights laws.

23 (3) OTHER MEASURES TO PROMOTE POLICY.—

24 The Director of the Office of Management and

25 Budget and the Secretary of the Interior shall take

1 any other measures within their authority to pro-
2 mote the policy of this Act.

3 (4) BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN
4 INSTITUTION.—As appropriate, the Vice President
5 shall, in consultation with the Assistant to the Presi-
6 dent for Domestic Policy and Special Assistant to
7 the President and Senior Associate Staff Secretary,
8 work with the Speaker of the House of Representa-
9 tives and the Majority Leader of the Senate to seek
10 the appointment of citizen members to the Board of
11 Regents of the Smithsonian Institution committed to
12 advancing the policy of this Act.

13 (d) RESTORING INDEPENDENCE HALL.—The Sec-
14 retary of the Interior shall provide sufficient funding, as
15 available, to improve the infrastructure of Independence
16 National Historical Park, which shall be complete by July
17 4, 2026, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Dec-
18 laration of Independence.

19 (e) RESTORING TRUTH IN AMERICAN HISTORY.—
20 The Secretary of the Interior shall—

21 (1) determine whether, since January 1, 2020,
22 public monuments, memorials, statues, markers, or
23 similar properties within the Department of the In-
24 terior’s jurisdiction have been removed or changed to
25 perpetuate a false reconstruction of American his-

1 tory, inappropriately minimize the value of certain
2 historical events or figures, divide Americans based
3 on race, recognize men as women, or include any
4 other improper partisan ideology;

5 (2) take action to reinstate the pre-existing
6 monuments, memorials, statues, markers, or similar
7 properties, as appropriate and consistent with sec-
8 tion 437 of the Revised Statutes (43 U.S.C. 1451),
9 division A of subtitle I of title 54, United States
10 Code, and other applicable law; and

11 (3) take action, as appropriate and consistent
12 with applicable law, to ensure that all public monu-
13 ments, memorials, statues, markers, or similar prop-
14 erties within the Department of the Interior’s juris-
15 diction—

16 (A) do not contain descriptions, depictions,
17 or other content that inappropriately disparage
18 Americans past or living (including persons liv-
19 ing in colonial times), divide Americans based
20 on race, or recognize men as women; and

21 (B) instead focus on the greatness of the
22 achievements and progress of the American
23 people or, with respect to natural features, the
24 beauty, abundance, and grandeur of the Amer-
25 ican landscape.

1 (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
2 shall be construed to—

3 (1) impair or otherwise affect—

4 (A) the authority granted by law to an ex-
5 ecutive department or agency, or the head
6 thereof; or

7 (B) the functions of the Director of the Of-
8 fice of Management and Budget relating to
9 budgetary, administrative, or legislative pro-
10 posals; or

11 (2) create any right or benefit, substantive or
12 procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any
13 party against the United States, its departments,
14 agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or
15 agents, or any other person.

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