

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5279

To amend title 36, United States Code, to designate November as National American History and Founders Month.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2026

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. McCORMICK) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 36, United States Code, to designate November as National American History and Founders Month.

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 “National American
5 History and Founders Month Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) As the United States celebrates the 250th
9 anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of
10 Independence in 2026, the United States is a Nation

1 characterized by cultural and geographic diversity
2 and uniquely bound by a common heritage and his-
3 tory that began on July 4, 1776, with the profound
4 words of the Declaration of Independence.

5 (2) The preservation and understanding of the
6 history of the United States and the principles of
7 the Founding Fathers are intrinsic values that unite
8 the people of the United States and provide a foun-
9 dation for understanding the origins and ideals of
10 the United States by providing a common bond.

11 (3) Presidents George Washington and Thomas
12 Jefferson stressed the crucial role of an informed
13 citizenry in a free society. They believed that an
14 educated and knowledgeable citizenry was essential
15 for the survival of a democratic republic and for the
16 preservation of liberty.

17 (4) Civics education in the United States has
18 experienced a significant decline, with only 13 per-
19 cent of eighth graders proficient in United States
20 history and 22 percent of eighth graders proficient
21 in civics, according to the 2022 National Assessment
22 of Educational Progress.

23 (5) A decline in civics education impairs the
24 ability of young people of the United States to en-
25 gage meaningfully with public officials and appre-

1 ciate the philosophical foundations of the American
2 Revolutionary period, the Declaration of Independ-
3 ence, the Constitution of the United States, and the
4 Bill of Rights.

5 (6) Civics education for students can raise
6 awareness of the significant events, influential fig-
7 ures, and philosophical bases that shaped the United
8 States, inspiring a renewed appreciation for its rich
9 history.

10 (7) Educational and service organizations in
11 law, political science, and related fields should be en-
12 couraged to support the study of the history of the
13 United States to cultivate informed and engaged
14 citizens to understand the documents that define the
15 United States, including the Declaration of Inde-
16 pendence, the Constitution of the United States, and
17 the Bill of Rights.

18 (8) Designating November as National Amer-
19 ican History and Founders Month would also aid in
20 the discovery, collection, and preservation of histor-
21 ical records, documents, monuments, and structures
22 that illuminate the history of the first founders and
23 their descendants.

24 (9) November is the month during which the
25 United States celebrates Thanksgiving. President

1 George Washington issued the first national Thanks-
2 giving proclamation designating Thursday, Novem-
3 ber 26, 1789, as a day of public prayer and grati-
4 tude for the United States. Abraham Lincoln issued
5 a proclamation officially establishing Thanksgiving
6 Day as a national holiday to designate the last
7 Thursday of November as a day for thanksgiving
8 and unity. Designating the entire month of Novem-
9 ber as National American History and Founders
10 Month would extend this tradition of unity and grati-
11 tude for the United States by deepening the under-
12 standing and appreciation for the United States by
13 the people of the United States.

14 (10) A permanent designation of November as
15 National American History and Founders Month
16 would encourage schools, communities, and organi-
17 zations to host events, educational programs, and
18 initiatives that celebrate and teach the history of the
19 United States and the contributions of the Founding
20 Fathers.

21 (11) The unique circumstances and events that
22 created the United States must be well known by the
23 citizenry of the United States so as to perpetuate
24 into the future the values and rights of the United

1 States of individual freedom, liberty, and the pursuit
2 of happiness.

3 (12) Such a designation will inspire young peo-
4 ple of the United States to learn about and take
5 pride in the history of the United States, fostering
6 a sense of unity and shared purpose.

7 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of part A of subtitle
9 I of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding
10 at the end the following:

11 **“§ 149. National American History and Founders**
12 **Month**

13 “(a) DESIGNATION.—November is National Amer-
14 ican History and Founders Month.

15 “(b) PROCLAMATIONS.—The President is requested
16 to issue each year a proclamation calling on the people
17 of the United States, and the chief executive officers of
18 each State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
19 and each territory and possession of the United States are
20 requested to issue each year proclamations calling on the
21 people of their respective jurisdictions, to observe National
22 American History and Founders Month with appropriate
23 programs, ceremonies, and activities that enhance civics
24 education and historical literacy.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 for chapter 1 of part A of subtitle I of title 36, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

“149. National American History and Founders Month.”.

