

MARKUP OF H.R. 1980, THE SMITHSONIAN
WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE
ADMINISTRATION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

NOVEMBER 12, 2019

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COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

116TH CONGRESS

ZOE LOFGREN, California, *Chairperson*

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SUSAN A. DAVIS, California

G. K. BUTTERFIELD, North Carolina

MARCIA L. FUDGE, Ohio

PETE AGUILAR, California

RODNEY DAVIS, Illinois, *Ranking Member*

MARK WALKER, North Carolina

BARRY LOUDERMILK, Georgia

MARKUP OF H.R. 1980, THE SMITHSONIAN WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 6:03 p.m., in Room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Zoe Lofgren (Chairperson of the Committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Lofgren, Butterfield, Fudge, Aguilar, Davis of Illinois, and Walker.

Staff Present: Sean Jones, Legislative Clerk; David Tucker, Parliamentarian; Khalil Abboud, Deputy Staff Director; Peter Whippy, Communications Director; Meredith Connor, Professional Staff; Mariam Malik, Staff Assistant; Eddie Flaherty, Chief Clerk; Courtney Parella, Minority Communications Director; Tim Monahan, Minority Deputy Staff Director; Jesse Roberts, Minority Counsel; and Jennifer Daulby, Minority Staff Director.

The CHAIRPERSON. A quorum being present, the Committee will come to order.

Without objection, the Chair is authorized to declare a recess at any time.

Pursuant to Committee Rule 4 and clause 2(h)(4) of House Rule XI, the Chair announces she may postpone further proceedings today if a recorded vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment.

I am advised that our Ranking Member is in the elevator on his way and that we should proceed so we will and I will do so by making a few remarks.

Today, we are considering H.R. 1980, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act. This legislation will establish a comprehensive women's history museum within the Smithsonian Institution.

I would like to commend our colleague from New York, Representative Carolyn Maloney, whose tireless advocacy over more than two decades laid the foundation for today's markup. As a result of her hard work and the hard work of others, this bill has 293 cosponsors, including 59 Republicans.

In fact, this bill is so popular that it was placed on the Consensus Calendar, which was established at the beginning of this Congress for bills with at least 290 cosponsors that have not been reported out of committee. I applaud Congresswoman Maloney's use of this new calendar, and I am pleased to now exercise our Committee's jurisdiction during this markup.

It is impossible to tell the story of America without telling the story of American women. From the days of our Nation's infancy through today, the United States has benefited from the contributions and sacrifices of women.

In colonial times, the Daughters of Liberty helped spark the American Revolution. In our early days of independence, Sacagawea guided Lewis and Clark on their infamous expedition. In the lead-up to the Civil War, Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery and guided dozens of slaves to freedom. A few decades later, women like Susan B. Anthony dedicated their lives to the fight for women's suffrage.

During World War II, 6.5 million women entered the labor force to support the war effort. One of them was my mother, who worked at the Douglas Aircraft plant in south San Francisco making planes for the war effort. Later in the 20th century, Rosa Parks sparked the Montgomery bus boycott and Sandra Day O'Connor took the bench as the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court.

In 2007, we elected our first woman Speaker of the House, and, in 2019, we elected the same woman again. The American people sent an unprecedented 117 women to represent them here in Congress.

However, even with these and countless other accomplishments by women in the U.S., historical accounts, monuments, and museums disproportionately represent the achievements of men while neglecting those of women. A variety of studies have shown that history textbooks discuss the accomplishments of men exponentially more often than those of women.

As the report from the Commission established by Congress to assess the need for a women's museum stated, of the 44 national memorials managed by the National Park Service, only 1 specifically honors the achievements of women. The contributions and experiences of American women deserve celebration and recognition, and I can think of few better ways to do so than by establishing a women's history museum at the Smithsonian.

The Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act mirrors the highly successful National Museum of African American History and Culture Act. Like that bill, this bill calls for a 50/50 split between Federal and non-Federal funding, a model that worked very well for the African American History Museum. It also expresses a preference for a museum site on the National Mall.

I am hopeful that, today, nearly 100 years after women were granted the right to vote, we will take the first step in creating a museum to recognize these achievements and to inspire future generations.

I would now like to recognize our Ranking Member, Mr. Davis, for any comments he may like to offer.

[The statement of the Chairperson follows:]

ZOE LOFGREN, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRPERSON

JAMIE RASKIN, MARYLAND
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SUSAN DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
G.K. BUTTERFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA
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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

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RODNEY DAVIS, ILLINOIS
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

MARK WALKER, NORTH CAROLINA
BARRY LOUDERMILK, GEORGIA

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

JEN DAULBY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

Chairperson Zoe Lofgren

Markup of H.R. 1980-Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act

11.12.2019

Opening Statement

Today we will consider H.R. 1980, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act. This piece of legislation will establish a comprehensive women's history museum within the Smithsonian Institution.

It is impossible to tell the story of America without telling the story of American women. From the days of our Nation's infancy through today, the United States has benefitted from the contributions and sacrifices of women. In colonial times, the Daughters of Liberty helped spark the American Revolution. In our early days of independence, Sacagawea guided Lewis and Clark on their infamous expedition. In the leadup to the Civil War, Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery and guided dozens of slaves to freedom. A few decades later, women like Susan B. Anthony dedicated their lives to the fight for women's suffrage. During World War II, six-and-a-half million women entered the labor force to support the war effort.

Later in the twentieth century, Rosa Parks sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Sandra Day O' Connor took the bench as the first woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court. More recently, we saw the first female candidate nominated for President of the United States by a major political party, and, in 2018, the American people sent an unprecedented 117 women to represent them here in Congress.

However, even with these and countless other accomplishments by women in the United States, historical accounts, monuments and museums disproportionately represent the achievements of men while neglecting those of women. A variety of studies have shown that history textbooks discuss the accomplishments of men exponentially more often than those of women. And of the 44 national memorials managed by the National Park Service, only one specifically honors the achievements of women. The contributions and experience of American women deserve celebration and recognition, and I can think of few better ways to do so than by establishing a women's history museum at the Smithsonian.

The Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act mirrors the highly successful National Museum of African American History and Culture Act. Like that bill, this bill calls for a fifty-fifty split between federal and non-federal funding—a model that worked very well for the African American History Museum. It also expresses a preference for a museum site on the National Mall.

Women have come a very long way since the founding of our Nation. But despite how far we've come, we still have a long way to go. I am hopeful that today—nearly 100 years after women were granted the right to vote—we will take the first step in creating a museum to recognize these achievements and inspire future generations.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you, Chairperson Lofgren.

Since its establishment in 1846, the Smithsonian has become the world's largest museum, education, and research organization. The Institution preserves and celebrates our Nation's cultural heritage and advances scientific discovery in multiple disciplines.

On behalf of the American people, Congress, the Board of Regents, and Smithsonian management have a responsibility to ensure the continued success of the institution for future generations.

The Smithsonian has a broad mission—the increase and diffusion of knowledge—and a bold strategic plan to support that mission.

A critical goal in the plan is to reach one billion people a year through a digital-first strategy. Making the Smithsonian's rich collections, first-class research, and empowering educational materials accessible to Americans across the country, not just those that visit Washington, should be a fundamental part of the Institution's strategy moving forward.

The Smithsonian, if able, should also have museums and exhibits that allow every American to feel represented. I believe a women's history museum, like what we are voting on today, could help the Smithsonian accomplish that critical goal, and I look forward to discussing this proposal today.

Thank you, and I yield back.

[The statement of Mr. Davis of Illinois follows:]

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ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

JEN DAULBY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

**Ranking Member Rodney Davis
Markup of H.R. 1980-Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act
11.13.2019
Opening Statement**

Thank you, Chairperson Lofgren. Since its establishment in 1846, the Smithsonian has become the world's largest museum, education and research organization. The Smithsonian Institution preserves and celebrates our Nation's cultural heritage and advances scientific discovery in multiple disciplines. On behalf of the American people, Congress, the Board of Regents and Smithsonian management have a responsibility to ensure the continued success of the Smithsonian Institution for future generations.

The Smithsonian has a broad mission—"the increase and diffusion of knowledge"—and a bold strategic plan to support that mission. A critical goal in the plan is to "reach one billion people a year through a digital-first strategy." Making the Smithsonian's rich collections, first-class research, and empowering educational materials accessible to Americans across the country—not just those that visit Washington, D.C.—should be a fundamental part of the Institution's strategy moving forward.

The Smithsonian, if able, should also have museums and exhibits that allow every American to feel represented. I believe a women's history museum, like what we are voting on today, could help the Smithsonian accomplish that critical goal, and I look forward to discussing this proposal today. Thank you, and I yield back.

The CHAIRPERSON. Thank you, Mr. Davis.

Without objection, the opening statements of all Members will be included in the record.

The CHAIRPERSON. I now call up H.R. 1980. The clerk shall report the title of the legislation.

The CLERK. H.R. 1980, a bill to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, and for other purposes. Section 1. Short Title—

The CHAIRPERSON. Without objection, further reading of the bill is dispensed with, and, without objection, the bill is considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

[The bill follows:]

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1980

To establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 28, 2019

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. WILD, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. DEAN, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BARR, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. TURNER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. ZELDIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, 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 "Smithsonian Women's
5 History Museum Act".

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Since its founding, the United States has
4 greatly benefitted from the contributions of women.

5 (2) Historical accounts, monuments, memorials,
6 and museums disproportionately represent men's
7 achievements and contributions and often neglect
8 those of women. For example—

9 (A) a study of 18 American history text-
10 books concluded that 10 percent of the material
11 documented contributions of women;

12 (B) 9 statues out of 91 in the United
13 States Capitol's National Statuary Hall depict
14 women; and

15 (C) only one of the 44 monuments oper-
16 ated by the National Park Service specifically
17 honors the achievements of women after the
18 2016 designation of the Belmont-Paul Women's
19 Equality National Monument.

20 (3) There exists no national museum in the
21 United States that is devoted to the documentation
22 of women's contributions throughout the Nation's
23 history.

24 (4) Establishing a comprehensive women's his-
25 tory museum representing a diverse range of view-
26 points, experience, and backgrounds is necessary to

1 more accurately depict the history of the United
2 States and would add value to the Smithsonian In-
3 stitution.

4 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF MUSEUM.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
6 the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women’s his-
7 tory museum, to be named by the Board of Regents in
8 consultation with the council established under section 4.

9 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the museum estab-
10 lished under this section shall be to provide for—

11 (1) the collection, study, and establishment of
12 programs relating to women’s contributions to var-
13 ious fields and throughout different periods of his-
14 tory that have influenced the direction of the United
15 States;

16 (2) collaboration with other Smithsonian Insti-
17 tution museums and facilities, outside museums, and
18 educational institutions; and

19 (3) the creation of exhibitions and programs
20 that recognize diverse perspectives on women’s his-
21 tory and contributions.

22 **SEC. 4. COUNCIL.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
24 the Smithsonian Institution a council to carry out the du-

1 ties set forth under subsection (b) and other provisions
2 of this Act.

3 (b) DUTIES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The council established
5 under this section shall—

6 (A) make recommendations to the Board
7 of Regents concerning the planning, design, and
8 construction of the museum established under
9 section 3;

10 (B) advise and assist the Board of Regents
11 on all matters relating to the administration,
12 operation, maintenance, and preservation of the
13 museum;

14 (C) recommend annual operating budgets
15 for the museum to the Board of Regents;

16 (D) report annually to the Board of Re-
17 gents on the acquisition, disposition, and dis-
18 play of objects relating to women's art, history,
19 and culture; and

20 (E) adopt bylaws for the operation of the
21 council.

22 (2) PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—The coun-
23 cil, subject to the general policies of the Board of
24 Regents, shall have sole authority to—

1 (A) purchase, accept, borrow, and other-
2 wise acquire artifacts for addition to the collec-
3 tions of the museum;

4 (B) loan, exchange, sell, and otherwise dis-
5 pose of any part of the collections of the mu-
6 seum, but only if the funds generated by that
7 disposition are used for additions to the collec-
8 tions of the museum; or

9 (C) specify criteria with respect to the use
10 of the collections and resources of the museum,
11 including policies on programming, education,
12 exhibitions, and research with respect to—

13 (i) the life, art, history, and culture of
14 women;

15 (ii) the role of women in the history of
16 the United States; and

17 (iii) the contributions of women to so-
18 ciety.

19 (3) OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.—The council,
20 subject to the general policies of the Board of Re-
21 gents, shall have authority—

22 (A) to provide for preservation, restoration,
23 and maintenance of the collections of the mu-
24 seum; and

1 (B) to solicit, accept, use, and dispose of
2 gifts, bequests, and devises of personal property
3 for the purpose of aiding and facilitating the
4 work of the museum.

5 (c) COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The council shall be com-
7 posed of 25 voting members as provided under para-
8 graph (2).

9 (2) VOTING MEMBERS.—The council shall in-
10 clude the following voting members:

11 (A) The Secretary of the Smithsonian In-
12 stitution.

13 (B) One member of the Board of Regents,
14 appointed by the Board of Regents.

15 (C) 23 individuals appointed by the Board
16 of Regents. In appointing members under this
17 subparagraph, the Board of Regents should
18 give special consideration to appointing—

19 (i) members of the Congressional
20 Commission;

21 (ii) board members of the National
22 Women's History Museum, a nonprofit,
23 educational organization described in sec-
24 tion 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
25 Code of 1986 that was incorporated in

1 1996 in the District of Columbia and that
2 is dedicated for the purpose of establishing
3 a women's history museum; and

4 (iii) scholars and representatives of
5 organizations that are committed to the
6 study of women's history.

7 (3) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Board of
8 Regents shall make initial appointments to the coun-
9 cil under paragraph (2) not later than 180 days
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

11 (d) TERMS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this
13 subsection, each appointed member of the council
14 shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

15 (2) INITIAL APPOINTEES.—As designated by
16 the Board of Regents at the time of appointment, of
17 the voting members first appointed under subpara-
18 graph (C) of subsection (c)(2)—

19 (A) 8 members shall be appointed for a
20 term of 1 year;

21 (B) 8 members shall be appointed for a
22 term of 2 years; and

23 (C) 7 members shall be appointed for a
24 term of 3 years.

1 (3) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member of the coun-
2 cil may be reappointed, except that no individual
3 may serve on the council for a total of more than
4 2 terms. For purposes of this paragraph, the num-
5 ber of terms an individual serves on the council shall
6 not include any portion of a term for which an indi-
7 vidual is appointed to fill a vacancy under paragraph
8 (4)(B).

9 (4) VACANCIES.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the coun-
11 cil—

12 (i) shall not affect the powers of the
13 council; and

14 (ii) shall be filled in the same manner
15 as the original appointment was made.

16 (B) TERM.—Any member of the council
17 appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the
18 expiration of the term for which the member's
19 predecessor was appointed shall be appointed
20 for the remainder of that term.

21 (e) COMPENSATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
23 graph (2), a member of the council shall serve with-
24 out pay.

1 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the
2 council shall be allowed travel expenses, including
3 per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized
4 for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of
5 chapter 57 of title 5, while away from the home or
6 regular place of business of the member in the per-
7 formance of the duties of the council.

8 (f) CHAIRPERSON.—By a majority vote of its voting
9 members, the council shall elect a chairperson from its
10 members.

11 (g) MEETINGS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The council shall meet at
13 the call of the chairperson or on the written request
14 of a majority of the voting members of the council,
15 but not fewer than twice each year.

16 (2) INITIAL MEETINGS.—During the 1-year pe-
17 riod beginning on the date of the first meeting of the
18 council, the council shall meet not fewer than 4
19 times for the purpose of carrying out the duties of
20 the council under this subchapter.

21 (h) QUORUM.—A majority of the voting members of
22 the council holding office shall constitute a quorum for
23 the purpose of conducting business, but a lesser number
24 may receive information on behalf of the council.

1 **SEC. 5. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF THE MUSEUM.**

2 (a) **DIRECTOR.**—

3 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The museum established
4 under section 3 shall have a Director who shall be
5 appointed by the Secretary, taking into consideration
6 individuals recommended by the council established
7 under section 4.

8 (2) **DUTIES.**—The Director shall manage the
9 museum subject to the policies of the Board of Re-
10 gents.

11 (b) **STAFF.**—The Secretary may appoint two addi-
12 tional employees to serve under the Director, except that
13 such additional employees may be appointed without re-
14 gard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, gov-
15 erning appointments in the competitive service.

16 (c) **PAY.**—The employees appointed by the Secretary
17 under subsection (b) may be paid without regard to the
18 provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53
19 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification
20 of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

21 **SEC. 6. EDUCATIONAL AND LIAISON PROGRAMS.**

22 (a) **PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED.**—The Director of the
23 museum established under section 3 may carry out edu-
24 cational and liaison programs in support of the goals of
25 the museum.

1 (b) COLLABORATION WITH SCHOOLS.—In carrying
2 out this section, the Director shall carry out educational
3 programs in collaboration with elementary schools, sec-
4 ondary schools, and postsecondary schools.

5 **SEC. 7. BUILDING.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—

7 (1) LOCATION.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6
9 months after the date of the enactment of this
10 Act, the Board of Regents shall designate a site
11 for the museum established under section 3.

12 (B) SITES FOR CONSIDERATION.—In des-
13 ignating a site under subparagraph (A), the
14 Board of Regents shall select from among the
15 following sites in the District of Columbia:

16 (i) The site known as the “South
17 Monument site”, located on the National
18 Mall and bordered by 14th Street North-
19 west, Jefferson Drive Southwest, Raoul
20 Wallenberg Place Southwest, and Inde-
21 pendence Avenue Southwest.

22 (ii) The Northwest United States
23 Capitol site, bordered by 3rd Street North-
24 west, Constitution Avenue Northwest, 1st

1 Street Northwest, and Pennsylvania Ave-
2 nue Northwest.

3 (iii) Any other appropriate location as
4 identified by the Board of Regents in con-
5 sultation with the council established under
6 section 4.

7 (C) AVAILABILITY OF SITE.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—The sites described
9 in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B)
10 shall remain available until the date on
11 which the Board of Regents designates a
12 site for the museum under subparagraph
13 (A).

14 (ii) TRANSFER TO SMITHSONIAN IN-
15 STITUTION.—If the site designated for the
16 museum is in an area that is under the ad-
17 ministrative jurisdiction of a Federal agen-
18 cy, as soon as practicable after the date on
19 which the designation is made, the head of
20 the Federal agency shall transfer to the
21 Smithsonian Institution administrative ju-
22 risdiction over the area.

23 (D) FACTORS CONSIDERED.—In desig-
24 nating a site under subparagraph (A), the

1 Board of Regents shall take into consideration
2 each of the following factors:

3 (i) An estimate of the costs associated
4 with each potential site.

5 (ii) An assessment of the suitability of
6 the space of each potential site, including
7 size, proximity to other buildings and
8 transportation, and other external environ-
9 mental conditions, as appropriate.

10 (iii) The recommendations of the Con-
11 gressional Commission.

12 (E) CONSULTATION.—The Board of Re-
13 gents shall carry out its duties under this para-
14 graph in consultation with each of the fol-
15 lowing:

16 (i) The Chair of the National Capital
17 Planning Commission.

18 (ii) The Chair of the Commission on
19 Fine Arts.

20 (iii) The Chair of the Congressional
21 Commission.

22 (iv) The chair and ranking minority
23 member of the Committees on Appropria-
24 tions and Rules and Administration of the
25 Senate.

1 (v) The chair and ranking minority
2 member of the Committees on Appropria-
3 tions, House Administration, and Trans-
4 portation and Infrastructure of the House
5 of Representatives.

6 (F) PRIORITY.—In designating a site
7 under subparagraph (A), the Board of Regents
8 shall give priority to a site which is on or near
9 the National Mall.

10 (b) CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING.—The Board of
11 Regents, in consultation with the council established under
12 section 4, may plan, design, and construct a building for
13 the museum, which shall be located at the site designated
14 by the Board of Regents under subsection (a).

15 (c) NONAPPLICABILITY OF PROVISIONS RELATING
16 TO MONUMENTS AND COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.—Chap-
17 ter 89 of title 40, United States Code, shall not apply with
18 respect to the museum.

19 (d) COST SHARING.—The Board of Regents shall
20 pay—

21 (1) 50 percent of the costs of carrying out this
22 section from Federal funds; and

23 (2) 50 percent of the costs of carrying out this
24 section from non-Federal sources.

1 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

3 (1) The term “Board of Regents” means the
4 Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

5 (2) The term “Congressional Commission”
6 means the Commission to Study the Potential Cre-
7 ation of a National Women’s History Museum, es-
8 tablished under section 3056 of the Military Con-
9 struction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015
10 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3810).

11 (3) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
12 of the Smithsonian Institution.

13 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
15 priated to the Smithsonian Institution to carry out this
16 Act, including the planning, design, construction, and op-
17 eration of the museum established under section 3, such
18 sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020 and each
19 succeeding fiscal year.

20 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant
21 to the authorization under this section shall remain avail-
22 able until expended.

23 (c) USE OF FUNDS FOR FUNDRAISING.—Amounts
24 appropriated pursuant to the authorization under this sec-

23

16

1 tion may be used to conduct fundraising in support of the
2 museum established under section 3 from private sources.

○

The CHAIRPERSON. Does any Member seek recognition?

Mr. WALKER. Madam Chairperson, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIRPERSON. The gentleman is recognized, and the clerk will report the amendment, and the gentleman is recognized for five minutes in support of his amendment.

The CLERK. Amendment to H.R. 1980 Offered by Mr. Walker of North Carolina—

The CHAIRPERSON. Without objection, the amendment is considered as read.

[The amendment of Mr. Walker follows:]

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1980
OFFERED BY MR. WALKER OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 6, insert after line 4 the following:

1 (4) ENSURING DIVERSITY OF POLITICAL VIEW-
2 POINTS IN EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMS.—In carrying
3 out its duties, the council shall ensure that the ex-
4 hibits and programs of the museum reflect the diver-
5 sity of the political viewpoints held by women of the
6 United States on the events and issues relating to
7 the history of women in the United States.

☒

The CHAIRPERSON. Mr. Walker.

Mr. WALKER. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

As this museum has been discussed in the past, Madam Chairperson, many of my colleagues have expressed concern that prominent women and conservative viewpoints will not be properly depicted in museum programming. This amendment serves to ensure that all viewpoints will be represented.

It is my hope that the museum will recognize women of all backgrounds who have paved the way for others in all industries and fields, including right here in the United States Congress.

The very first woman elected to Congress was a Republican, Jeannette Rankin. Ms. Rankin was even elected before all women in the United States had the right to vote. She said, "I may be first woman Member of Congress, but I won't be the last." She was right. Her words rang true. More than 300 women of several different political parties have served in Congress since 1917.

During this time, we have also seen the rise of figures like Condoleezza Rice, Elaine Chao, and, on the Congress side, Shirley Chisholm and Mary Norton.

As a father of two daughters, I am proud to honor the achievements of these women and many others from both sides of the aisle, as their hard work will give the next generation limitless opportunities.

I urge my colleagues, on this amendment, to guarantee diverse viewpoints and equal representation as the plans for this museum move forward.

Thank you, and I yield back.

The CHAIRPERSON. Thank you.

Does any other Member wish to be heard on the amendment?

If not, I would simply say we are happy to accept this amendment. It would not be the museum we want if everyone wasn't represented, and we certainly approve of this amendment.

And we will move to a vote.

All in favor of the amendment will say aye.

All opposed will say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it.

The clerk can note this was a unanimous vote to accept the amendment.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Chairperson, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIRPERSON. The gentleman is recognized for five minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. The legislation before us today establishes a comprehensive women's history museum within the Smithsonian.

In the 113th Congress, I supported the legislation creating the Commission which studied this issue. In its final report, that Commission unanimously recommended the museum's creation.

Women have made significant contributions to the American experience, and I agree with the commission that those contributions deserve to be recognized in a dedicated national museum.

With 293 bipartisan cosponsors, it is clear this legislation has broad support within the House and is eligible to be placed on the Consensus Calendar. I welcome this new provision in House rules as a way for measures with broad-based support to be considered. If it had been available in the past, it would have been a helpful

tool for me to use with some legislation I have sponsored in the past. I speak from experience that it is frustrating to see a bill with deep bipartisan support be held hostage by a few individuals.

I will vote today to move this bill to the Floor, given that so many of my colleagues support it. However, I do want to note that I am concerned that the Committee has not held a hearing specifically focused on this bill, as we did for legislation establishing the National Museum of the American Indian and National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The Committee has a responsibility to fully examine both the specific proposal as well as the Smithsonian's ability to stand up a new museum while maintaining its existing facilities and collections. To help ensure the success of the museum, we and our colleagues must be cognizant of the scope of what that endeavor and Federal commitment required—will be required for its success.

I recognize the important work of the Commission and value its report. However, their work should inform us but not replace Congress's role to study the issue independently. While this legislation and the topic of a new Smithsonian museum was mentioned in a cursory way at the Committee's October 17 hearing, major issues were not explored in depth.

These issues include, first, the size. The museum size will impact the location and cost of the museum. The Commission's report and the CBO cost estimate envision a museum of under 100,000 square feet, significantly smaller than other Smithsonian history museums. Is this adequate to cover the scope and the breadth of a women's history museum? Would an additional building be required for offsite collection storage, and, if so, should it be authorized in this legislation?

The Smithsonian's response to my recent inquiry indicates the size should be no less than 350,000 square feet, and I have asked the CBO to revise its estimate based on this information. If CBO's estimate of \$190 million relies on a flawed assumption of the museum's size, we have an obligation to correct it and inform Members of the realistic figure for Federal costs to support the museum.

Second, the location. H.R. 1980 directs the Board of Regents to select from one of two sites or an alternate location identified by the board within six months of enactment. Has a comprehensive site assessment been conducted to determine suitability for a museum of the appropriate size? If not, is six months enough time for such an assessment to be completed?

The two sites identified in the bill are under the jurisdiction of the Architect of the Capitol and the National Park Service. My question is, do these entities have any concerns that should be addressed?

Third, I wonder about the capacity of the Smithsonian to handle a new museum. As the Committee is aware and the commission report noted, the Smithsonian faces several facilities challenges: a deferred maintenance backlog of over a billion dollars, a \$900 million renovation of the National Air and Space Museum, and 47 percent of collection storage space identified as unacceptable. What is the Smithsonian's specific plan and timing to address these issues, and how will the addition of a new museum impact that plan?

Finally, the cost. What is the expectation of Federal funding needed to address the maintenance backlog, support ongoing facilities care, and provide for the construction and operating costs of a new museum?

Absent a hearing in advance of this markup, I hope the Committee can pursue any other appropriate mechanisms to examine these issues, with the intention of providing a solid foundation for the creation and making a reality the Smithsonian Women's History Museum.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson, and I yield back.

The CHAIRPERSON. Thank you, Mr. Davis.

I think this is an important day in moving forward on this issue. As you know, in past years, we have had hearings. And you are right; we had a less detailed discussion with Secretary Bunch. But I was taken by his comment, when he appeared before us, that it took him 10 years to stand up the African American Museum, and you don't get there unless you start. So, really, this is a matter of starting.

We are going to have to keep oversight on this project. I am sure there are things that will change. This is an authorization, not an appropriation, so this doesn't mean this is necessarily going to happen. It is subject to appropriations. If we don't take this first step, we know it won't happen.

And so this is a very important day for our Committee and for our country to begin the process of this creation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Chairperson, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The CHAIRPERSON. I am not quite finished.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Okay.

The CHAIRPERSON. I will yield to you in a minute.

I just wanted to note also, because I don't think we publicized this, but we have, Mr. Davis and I, reached out to the Interior Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, requesting robust funding in fiscal year 2021 to address the Smithsonian's backlog of maintenance. It is time to step forward and deal with that issue.

I remember, years ago, former Representative Vic Fazio was first Ranking Member and then Chairman of this Committee, and they decided they had to do something about the deferred maintenance in the Library of Congress and in the Botanical Gardens. And it was not cheap, but these buildings are held in trust by us for the public. So they saved the Library, the historic building, from further deterioration, as well as the Botanical Gardens, and the public benefits from that today.

So I am hopeful that we can approach the Smithsonian deferred maintenance backlog in that same spirit. I was grateful that Mr. Davis joined me in sending that letter to the Appropriations Committee.

And now I would happily yield to Mr. Davis for further comments he might have.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

And I, too, believe this is a historic day. And I do believe that we will have nothing but a bipartisan vote and bipartisan support to move this important legislation forward. I felt it was just necessary for us to bring up some of the concerns, and I look forward

to addressing those through the oversight process. I look forward to working with you, advocating for this project to move forward with our appropriate appropriations subcommittees and committee. And I am excited to see the bipartisanship that we are going to be able to exhibit tonight.

And I will yield back.

The CHAIRPERSON. Unless there are further requests to speak or further amendments, the question is on H.R. 1980, as amended.

All in favor will say aye.

All opposed will say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it.

The clerk will note that that has passed unanimously with no "no" votes.

The CHAIRPERSON. The question is on reporting H.R. 1980, as amended, favorably to the House.

All those who are in favor will say aye.

And we should note that our member Susan Davis, whose flight was delayed from California, is here in time to cast her vote for final passage of H.R. 1980.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it.

Without objection H.R. 1980, as amended is now reported favorably to the House. Without objection, the staff is given authorization to make technical and conforming changes.

And there being no further business before the Committee, thank you, Members, for participating in this great first day and first big step forward on the creation of this women's museum, and, without objection, we are adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 6:20 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

