

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4524

To prevent the expenditure of Federal funds to investigate circumstances  
relating to the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 9, 1998

Mr. BARR of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To prevent the expenditure of Federal funds to investigate  
circumstances relating to the death of Martin Luther  
King, Jr.

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       The Congress finds the following:

5               (1) On April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King,  
6       Jr., was shot while standing on the balcony of the  
7       Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, and subse-  
8       quently died of his wounds.

9               (2) James Earl Ray was arrested on June 8,  
10       1968, in London, England, and returned to Mem-

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1       phis, Tennessee, to stand trial for the assassination  
2       of Dr. King.

3           (3) On March 9, 1969, before coming to trial,  
4       James Earl Ray entered a guilty plea and was sen-  
5       tenced to 99 years in the Tennessee State Peniten-  
6       tiary, and on April 23, 1998, died in the custody of  
7       the Federal penal system.

8           (4) The circumstances surrounding the shooting  
9       of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., have been ex-  
10      haustively reviewed by the courts, the Congress,  
11      Federal agencies, and States agencies.

12          (5) Prior to his death, James Earl Ray had ac-  
13      cess to a full range of appellate process provided by  
14      our justice system.

15          (6) Despite repeated examinations of this mat-  
16      ter, no new credible evidence has emerged indicating  
17      that James Earl Ray was innocent or part of some  
18      larger plot.

19          (7) Attorney General Janet Reno has an-  
20      nounced that she intends to pursue another inves-  
21      tigation into the circumstances surrounding the  
22      murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

23          (8) The Department of Justice testifies before  
24      Congress that there are never enough resources to  
25      handle all our top law enforcement priorities, such

1 as fighting the war on drugs, combating juvenile  
2 crime, ensuring government accountability, and pro-  
3 tecting citizens from terrorists.

4 (9) Because witnesses have died, events have  
5 faded from memory, and evidence of the trial has  
6 grown cold, it is impossible for any further investiga-  
7 tion to yield new, credible information or evidence  
8 that will shed new light on an assassination for  
9 which the now deceased confessed perpetrator was  
10 duly convicted.

11 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.**

12 No Federal funds may be expended to investigate cir-  
13 cumstances relating to the death of Martin Luther King,  
14 Jr.

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