

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2817

To provide for the redesign of the reverse of the Lincoln 1-cent coin in 2009 in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2004

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. FITZGERALD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide for the redesign of the reverse of the Lincoln 1-cent coin in 2009 in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln.

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 “Abraham Lincoln Bi-  
5       centennial 1-Cent Coin Redesign Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds as follows:

8               (1) Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President, was  
9       one of the Nation’s greatest leaders, demonstrating



1 true courage during the Civil War, one of the great-  
2 est crises in the Nation's history.

3 (2) Born of humble roots in Hardin County,  
4 Kentucky, on February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln  
5 rose to the Presidency through a combination of  
6 honesty, integrity, intelligence, and commitment to  
7 the United States.

8 (3) With the belief that all men are created  
9 equal, Abraham Lincoln led the effort to free all  
10 slaves in the United States.

11 (4) Abraham Lincoln had a generous heart,  
12 with malice toward none and with charity for all.

13 (5) Abraham Lincoln gave the ultimate sacrifice  
14 for the country he loved, dying from an assassin's  
15 bullet on April 15, 1865.

16 (6) All Americans could benefit from studying  
17 the life of Abraham Lincoln, for Lincoln's life is a  
18 model for accomplishing the "American dream"  
19 through honesty, integrity, loyalty, and a lifetime of  
20 education.

21 (7) The year 2009 will be the bicentennial anni-  
22 versary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

23 (8) Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky,  
24 grew to adulthood in Indiana, achieved fame in Illi-  
25 nois, and led the nation in Washington, D.C.



1           (9) The so-called “Lincoln cent” was introduced  
 2           in 1909 on the 100th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth,  
 3           making the obverse design the most enduring on the  
 4           nation’s coinage.

5           (10) President Theodore Roosevelt was so im-  
 6           pressed by the talent of Victor David Brenner that  
 7           the sculptor was chosen to design the likeness of  
 8           President Lincoln for the coin, adapting a design  
 9           from a plaque Brenner had prepared earlier.

10          (11) In the nearly 100 years of production of  
 11          the “Lincoln cent”, there have been only 2 designs  
 12          on the reverse: the original, featuring 2 wheat-heads  
 13          in memorial style enclosing mottoes, and the current  
 14          representation of the Lincoln Memorial in Wash-  
 15          ington, D.C.

16          (12) On the occasion of the bicentennial of  
 17          President Lincoln’s birth and the 100th anniversary  
 18          of the production of the Lincoln cent, it is entirely  
 19          fitting to issue a series of 1-cent coins with designs  
 20          on the reverse that are emblematic of the 4 major  
 21          periods of President Lincoln’s life.

22 **SEC. 3. REDESIGN OF LINCOLN CENT FOR 2009.**

23          (a) IN GENERAL.—During the year 2009, the Sec-  
 24          retary of the Treasury shall issue 1-cent coins in accord-  
 25          ance with the following design specifications:



1           (1) OBVERSE.—The obverse of the 1-cent coin  
 2           shall continue to bear the Victor David Brenner like-  
 3           ness of President Abraham Lincoln.

4           (2) REVERSE.—The reverse of the coins shall  
 5           bear 4 different designs each representing a dif-  
 6           ferent aspect of the life of Abraham Lincoln, such  
 7           as—

8                       (A) his birth and early childhood in Ken-  
 9                       tucky;

10                      (B) his formative years in Indiana;

11                      (C) his professional life in Illinois; and

12                      (D) his presidency, in Washington, D.C.

13           (b) ISSUANCE OF REDESIGNED LINCOLN CENTS IN  
 14           2009.—

15           (1) ORDER.—The 1-cent coins to which this  
 16           section applies shall be issued with 1 of the 4 de-  
 17           signs referred to in subsection (a)(2) beginning at  
 18           the start of each calendar quarter of 2009.

19           (2) NUMBER.—The Secretary shall prescribe,  
 20           on the basis of such factors as the Secretary deter-  
 21           mines to be appropriate, the number of 1-cent coins  
 22           that shall be issued with each of the designs selected  
 23           for each calendar quarter of 2009.

24           (c) DESIGN SELECTION.—The designs for the coins  
 25           specified in this section shall be chosen by the Secretary—



1 (1) after consultation with the Abraham Lin-  
 2 coln Bicentennial Commission and the Commission  
 3 of Fine Arts; and

4 (2) after review by the Citizens Coinage Advi-  
 5 sory Committee.

6 **SEC. 4. REDESIGN OF REVERSE OF 1-CENT COINS AFTER**  
 7 **2009.**

8 The design on the reverse of the 1-cent coins issued  
 9 after December 31, 2009, shall bear an image emblematic  
 10 of President Lincoln's preservation of the United States  
 11 of America as a single and united country.

12 **SEC. 5. NUMISMATIC PENNIES WITH THE SAME METALLIC**  
 13 **CONTENT AS THE 1909 PENNY.**

14 The Secretary of the Treasury shall issue 1-cent coins  
 15 in 2009 with the exact metallic content as the 1-cent coin  
 16 contained in 1909 in such number as the Secretary deter-  
 17 mines to be appropriate for numismatic purposes.

18 **SEC. 6. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

19 It is the sense of the Congress that the original Victor  
 20 David Brenner design for the 1-cent coin was a dramatic  
 21 departure from previous American coinage that should be  
 22 reproduced, using the original form and relief of the like-  
 23 ness of Abraham Lincoln, on the 1-cent coins issued in  
 24 2009.

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