

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 893

To allow certain individuals of Japanese ancestry who were brought forcibly to the United States from countries in Latin America during World War II and were interned in the United States to be provided restitution under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

Mr. BECERRA (for himself, Mr. CASE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LEE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. BORDALLO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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# A BILL

To allow certain individuals of Japanese ancestry who were brought forcibly to the United States from countries in Latin America during World War II and were interned in the United States to be provided restitution under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, 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 “Wartime Parity and  
5       Justice Act of 2005”.

1   **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS UNDER**  
2                   **CIVIL LIBERTIES ACT OF 1988.**

3               (a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—For purposes of the Civil Liberties  
4   Act of 1988 (50 U.S.C. App. 1989 et seq.), the following  
5   individuals shall be deemed to be eligible individuals:

6               (1) An individual who—

7                   (A) is of Japanese ancestry, or is the  
8   spouse or parent of an individual of Japanese  
9   ancestry;

10                  (B) was brought forcibly to the United  
11   States from a country in Central America or  
12   South America during the evacuation, reloca-  
13   tion, and internment period;

14                  (C) was living on August 10, 1988;

15                  (D) otherwise meets the requirements of  
16   subparagraph (B)(i) of section 108(2) of the  
17   Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (50 U.S.C. App.  
18   1989b-7(2)(B)(i)); and

19                  (E) subject to section 4(f) of this Act, has  
20   not otherwise received payment under the Civil  
21   Liberties Act of 1988.

22               (2) An individual who was an eligible individual  
23   under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 before the en-  
24   actment of this Act and who was eligible for, but did  
25   not receive, payment under that Act prior to the ter-

1 mination of the Civil Liberties Public Education  
2 Fund under section 104(d) of that Act.

3 (3) An individual who—

4 (A) was born to an eligible individual  
5 under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 during  
6 the period beginning on January 20, 1945, and  
7 ending on February 29, 1948, at a place in  
8 which the eligible individual was confined, held  
9 in custody, relocated, or otherwise located dur-  
10 ing the evacuation, relocation, or internment pe-  
11 riod; and

12 (B) was living on August 10, 1988.

13 (4)(A) An individual of Japanese ancestry who,  
14 during the evacuation, relocation, or internment pe-  
15 riod—

16 (i) was a United States citizen or a perma-  
17 nent resident alien;

18 (ii) whose employment with a railroad or  
19 mining company was terminated on account of  
20 the individual's Japanese ancestry; and

21 (iii) was living on August 10, 1988.

22 (B) An individual who—

23 (i) during the evacuation, relocation, or in-  
24 ternment period, was a dependent child of an  
25 individual described in subparagraph (A); and

1 (ii) was living on August 10, 1988.

2 (5) An individual of Japanese ancestry who—

(B) was legally in the United States during the evacuation, relocation, or internment period but was made ineligible for United States citizenship or permanent residence status by law enacted prior thereto, on account of the individual's Japanese ancestry.

13 (b) PRISONER EXCHANGES.—An individual shall not  
14 be precluded from being an eligible individual under sub-  
15 section (a) if that individual was sent by the United States  
16 to Japan or territories occupied by Japan at any time dur-  
17 ing the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending  
18 on September 2, 1945, in exchange for prisoners held by  
19 Japan.

## 20 SEC. 3. APOLOGY OF THE UNITED STATES.

21 The United States apologizes to those individuals de-  
22 scribed in section 2(a) for the fundamental violations of  
23 their basic civil liberties and constitutional rights com-  
24 mitted during the evacuation, relocation, or internment  
25 period. The President should transmit to each such indi-

1 vidual a personal letter of apology on behalf of the United  
2 States.

3 **SEC. 4. PROCEDURES.**

4 (a) **APPLICABILITY OF PROVISIONS OF THE CIVIL**  
5 **LIBERTIES ACT.**—Except as otherwise provided in this  
6 section, the provisions of section 105 of the Civil Liberties  
7 Act of 1988 shall apply with respect to eligible individuals  
8 under section 2 of this Act.

9 (b) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—The Attorney General shall have the responsibility  
10 to identify and locate, without requiring any application  
11 for payment and using records already in possession of  
12 the United States Government, eligible individuals under  
13 section 2, within 12 months after the date of the enactment  
14 of this Act. Failure to be identified and located within  
15 that 12-month period shall not preclude an eligible individual  
16 under section 2 from receiving payment under the  
17 Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

18 (c) **NOTIFICATION BY ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.**—Any  
19 eligible individual under section 2 may notify the Attorney  
20 General that the individual is an eligible individual, and  
21 may provide documentation therefor, within 6 years after  
22 the date of the enactment of this Act.

23 (d) **DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.**—The Attorney  
24 General shall make a final determination of eligibility

1 of individuals under section 2 not later than 1 year after  
2 locating the individual pursuant to subsection (b) or re-  
3 ceiving notification from an individual pursuant to sub-  
4 section (c), as the case may be.

5 (e) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—An individual seeking pay-  
6 ment of compensation under the Civil Liberties Act of  
7 1988 as an eligible individual under section 2 may seek  
8 judicial review of a denial of compensation in an appro-  
9 priate district court of the United States or the United  
10 States Court of Federal Claims within 6 years after the  
11 date of the denial.

12 (f) PAYMENTS FROM COURT CASES.—Notwith-  
13 standing section 2(a)(1)(E) of this Act and paragraph (7)  
14 of section 105(a) of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, an  
15 individual described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of  
16 section 2(a)(1) of this Act, or any surviving spouse, child,  
17 or parent of such individual to whom section 105(a)(8)  
18 of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 applies, who has accept-  
19 ed payment, before the enactment of this Act, pursuant  
20 to an award of a final judgment or a settlement on a claim  
21 against the United States for acts described in section  
22 108(2)(B) of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 or section  
23 2(a)(1)(B) of this Act, may receive payment under the  
24 Civil Liberties Act of 1988, except that any amount pay-  
25 able to such individual, spouse, child, or parent under sec-

1 tion 105(a)(1) of that Act shall be reduced by the amount  
2 of any payment received pursuant to such final judgment  
3 or settlement.

4 **SEC. 5. CORRECTION OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.**

5 Those individuals described in paragraph (1) of sec-  
6 tion 2(a) shall not be considered to have been present in  
7 the United States unlawfully during the evacuation, relo-  
8 cation, or internment period. Each department or agency  
9 of the United States shall take the necessary steps to cor-  
10 rect any records over which that department or agency  
11 has jurisdiction that indicate that such individuals were  
12 in the United States unlawfully during such period.

13 **SEC. 6. FULL DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.**

14 (a) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—The  
15 appropriate departments and agencies of the United  
16 States shall disclose to the public all information (other  
17 than information which may not be disclosed under other  
18 provisions of law) relating to the forcible removal of indi-  
19 viduals from Central and South America during the evacu-  
20 ation, relocation, or internment period and the internment  
21 of those individuals in the United States during that pe-  
22 riod, including information on individuals whose location  
23 is unknown.

24 (b) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH OTHER COUN-  
25 TRIES.—The President shall take the necessary steps to

1 share information described in subsection (a) with other  
2 countries and encourage those countries to make that in-  
3 formation available to people in those countries.

4 **SEC. 7. TRUST FUND.**

5 (a) REESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—The Civil Lib-  
6 erties Public Education Fund (in this Act referred to as  
7 the “Fund”) is reestablished in the Treasury of the United  
8 States, and shall be administered by the Secretary of the  
9 Treasury.

10 (b) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS IN THE FUND.—  
11 Amounts in the Fund shall be invested in accordance with  
12 section 9702 of title 31, United States Code.

13 (c) USES OF THE FUND.—Amounts in the Fund shall  
14 be available only—

15 (1) for disbursement of payments by the Attor-  
16 ney General, under section 105 of the Civil Liberties  
17 Act of 1988 and this Act, to eligible individuals  
18 under section 2 of this Act; and

19 (2) for disbursement by the Board of Directors  
20 of the Fund under section 8 of this Act.

21 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
22 are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund—

23 (1) such sums as may be necessary to carry out  
24 paragraph (1) of subsection (b); and

### 3 SEC. 8. BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FUND.

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Civil  
5 Liberties Public Education Fund Board of Directors,  
6 which shall be responsible for making disbursements from  
7 the Fund in the manner provided in this section.

8       (b) USES OF THE FUND.—The Board may make dis-  
9 bbursements from the Fund only—

20 (c) MEMBERSHIP, STAFF, ETC.—The provisions of  
21 subsections (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) of section 106 of the  
22 Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (50 U.S.C. App. 1989b-5 (c),  
23 (d), (e), (f), and (g)) shall apply to the Board of the Fund  
24 to the same extent as they applied to the Board estab-  
25 lished under that section.

1 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

2        In this Act, the terms “evacuation, relocation, or in-  
3 ternment period” and “permanent resident alien” have the  
4 meanings given those terms in section 108 of the Civil Lib-  
5 erties Act of 1988 (50 U.S.C. App. 1989b–7).

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