

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1437

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2007

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REID, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. LANDRIEU) 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 require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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 “Civil Rights Act of  
5   1964 Commemorative Coin Act”.

### 6   **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that—

1           (1) on December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks' brave  
2       act of defiance, refusing to give up her seat to a  
3       white person on a segregated bus in Montgomery,  
4       Alabama, galvanized the modern civil rights move-  
5       ment and led to the desegregation of the South;

6           (2) on February 1, 1960, 4 college students,  
7       Joseph McNeil, Franklin McCain, David Richmond,  
8       and Ezell Blair, Jr., asked to be served at a lunch  
9       counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, and lunch  
10      counter sit-ins began to occur throughout the South  
11      to challenge segregation in places of public accom-  
12      modation;

13          (3) on May 4, 1961, the Freedom Rides into  
14      the South began to test new court orders barring  
15      segregation in interstate transportation, and riders  
16      were jailed and beaten by mobs in several places, in-  
17      cluding Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama;

18          (4) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the lead-  
19      ing civil rights advocate of the time, spearheading  
20      the civil rights movement in the United States dur-  
21      ing the 1950s and 1960s with the goal of nonviolent  
22      social change and full civil rights for African Ameri-  
23      cans;

24          (5) on August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther  
25      King, Jr., led over 250,000 civil rights supporters in

1 the March on Washington and delivered his famous  
2 “I Have A Dream” speech to raise awareness and  
3 support for civil rights legislation;

4 (6) Mrs. Coretta Scott King, a leading partici-  
5 pant in the American civil rights movement, was  
6 side-by-side with her husband, Dr. Martin Luther  
7 King, Jr., during many civil rights marches, orga-  
8 nized Freedom Concerts to draw attention to the  
9 Movement, and worked in her own right to create an  
10 America in which all people have equal rights;

11 (7) the mass movement sparked by Rosa Parks  
12 and led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., among oth-  
13 ers, called upon the Congress and Presidents John  
14 F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson to pass civil  
15 rights legislation which culminated in the enactment  
16 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

17 (8) the Civil Rights Act of 1964 greatly ex-  
18 panded civil rights protections, outlawing racial dis-  
19 crimination and segregation in public places and  
20 places of public accommodation, in federally funded  
21 programs and employment and encouraging desegre-  
22 gation in public schools, and has served as a model  
23 for subsequent anti-discrimination laws;

24 (9) we are an eminently better Nation because  
25 of Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and all

1 those men and women who have confronted, and  
2 continue to confront, injustice and inequality wherever they see it;

4 (10) equality in education was one of the cornerstones of the civil rights movement;

6 (11) on September 10, 1961, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote that African American “students are coming to understand that education and learning have become tools for shaping the future and not devices of privilege for an exclusive few”;

11 (12) over its long and distinguished history, the United Negro College Fund has provided scholarships and operating funds to its member colleges that have enabled more than 300,000 young African Americans to earn college degrees and become successful members of society;

17 (13) those graduates include Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as leaders in the fields of education, science, medicine, law, entertainment, literature, the military, and politics who have made major contributions to the civil rights movement and the creation of a more equitable society;

23 (14) Congress has an obligation to lead America’s continued struggle to fight discrimination and ensure equal rights for all; and

1           (15) the year 2014 will mark the  
2       semicentennial of the passage of the Civil Rights Act  
3       of 1964.

4 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

5       (a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treas-  
6       ury (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint  
7       and issue not more than 350,000 \$1 coins, each of which  
8       shall—

- 9           (1) weigh 26.73 grams;  
10          (2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and  
11          (3) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent  
12       copper.

13       (b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this  
14       Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of  
15       title 31, United States Code.

16       (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
17       5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted  
18       under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

19 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

20       (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—The design of the  
21       coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the  
22       enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its con-  
23       tribution to civil rights in America.

24       (b) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin  
25       minted under this Act there shall be—

- 1 (1) a designation of the value of the coin;
- 2 (2) an inscription of the year “2014”; and
- 3 (3) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In
- 4 God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and
- 5 “E Pluribus Unum”.

6 (c) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted  
7 under this Act shall be—

- 8 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation
- 9 with the Commission of Fine Arts; and
- 10 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory
- 11 Committee established under section 5135 of title
- 12 31, United States Code.

### 13 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

14 (a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this  
15 Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

16 (b) COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary  
17 may issue coins minted under this Act beginning January  
18 1, 2014, except that the Secretary may initiate sales of  
19 such coins, without issuance, before such date.

20 (c) TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.—No  
21 coins shall be minted under this Act after December 31,  
22 2014.

### 23 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

24 (a) SALE PRICE.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
25 sion of law, the coins issued under this Act shall be sold

1 by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of the face  
2 value of the coins, the surcharge required under section  
3 7(a) for the coins, and the cost of designing and issuing  
4 such coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machin-  
5 ery, overhead expenses, and marketing).

6 (b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk  
7 sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable  
8 discount.

9 (c) PREPAID ORDERS AT A DISCOUNT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept  
11 prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act  
12 before the issuance of such coins.

13 (2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to pre-  
14 paid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a rea-  
15 sonable discount.

16 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

17 (a) SURCHARGE REQUIRED.—All sales shall include  
18 a surcharge of \$10 per coin.

19 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of  
20 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges which are re-  
21 ceived by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under  
22 this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the  
23 United Negro College Fund (UNCF) to carry out the pur-  
24 poses of the Fund, including providing scholarships and  
25 internships for minority students and operating funds and

1 technology enhancement services for 39 member histori-  
2 cally black colleges and universities.

3 (c) AUDITS.—The United Negro College Fund shall  
4 be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2)  
5 of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the  
6 amounts received by the Fund under subsection (b).

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