

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1124

To provide for the issuance of a semipostal in order to afford a convenient means by which members of the public may contribute towards the acquisition of works of art to honor female pioneers in Government service.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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 provide for the issuance of a semipostal in order to afford a convenient means by which members of the public may contribute towards the acquisition of works of art to honor female pioneers in Government service.

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 “Honoring Female Con-  
5 gressional Pioneers Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) The 74 women currently serving in the  
4 House of Representatives owe a debt of gratitude to  
5 all of their foremothers who broke down barriers  
6 both in their election to, and in the important legis-  
7 lative work they accomplished as Members of, the  
8 House of Representatives.

9 (2) Four women in particular stand out for  
10 their status as the “first” women in certain cat-  
11 egories.

12 (3) In 1916, Jeannette Rankin broke new  
13 ground by becoming the first woman elected to the  
14 House of Representatives, representing the State of  
15 Montana, first from 1917 to 1919 and later from  
16 1941 to 1943.

17 (4) Jeannette Rankin’s first election was all the  
18 more remarkable, considering that it came 3 years  
19 before women’s suffrage was a legally guaranteed  
20 right throughout the United States.

21 (5) Jeannette Rankin directly contributed to a  
22 woman’s right to vote when she introduced a resolu-  
23 tion in 1919 to support a women’s suffrage amend-  
24 ment to the Constitution of the United States.

25 (6) Jeannette Rankin remained true to her  
26 pacifistic ideals both by voting against the declara-

1 tions of World War I and World War II—and in  
2 fact was the only Representative to vote against the  
3 declaration of World War II—and by working tire-  
4 lessly to promote peace during her years outside of  
5 Congress.

6 (7) In 1924, Mary Teresa Norton became the  
7 first Democratic woman elected to the House of  
8 Representatives—and one of a small number of  
9 women during that period who were elected in their  
10 own right and not to replace their husbands—rep-  
11 resenting New Jersey’s Twelfth Congressional Dis-  
12 trict from 1925 to 1951.

13 (8) Mary Norton served as the chair of the  
14 Committee on the District of Columbia from 1931 to  
15 1937, effectively governing the city which at that  
16 time had no municipal government of its own.

17 (9) In 1934, Mary Norton became the first  
18 woman to chair a major political party in a State as  
19 head of the New Jersey State Committee.

20 (10) Mary Norton was instrumental in the  
21 drafting and passage in 1938 of a major piece of  
22 President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal: the  
23 Fair Labor Standards Act, which established a min-  
24 imum wage, a maximum workweek, overtime pay,  
25 and a prohibition on child labor.

1           (11) In 1964, Patsy Takemoto Mink became  
2           the first Asian-American woman elected to the  
3           House of Representatives, representing Hawaii's  
4           Second Congressional District from 1965 to 1977  
5           and again from 1991 until her death in 2002.

6           (12) Patsy Mink secured an assignment to the  
7           Committee on Education and Labor, for which her  
8           previous expertise and interests made her well-suit-  
9           ed, and used her time on that Committee to intro-  
10          duce the first child care bill, as well as bills to pro-  
11          vide for bilingual education, student loans, special  
12          education, and the Head Start program.

13          (13) Patsy Mink gained passage in 1965 of leg-  
14          islation to support the construction of schools in the  
15          Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

16          (14) Patsy Mink established the Democratic  
17          Women's Caucus in 1995 and served as its first  
18          chair.

19          (15) In 1968, Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm  
20          made history by becoming the first African-Amer-  
21          ican woman elected to the House of Representatives,  
22          representing New York's Twelfth Congressional Dis-  
23          trict until her retirement in 1983.

24          (16) Shirley Chisholm was a founding member  
25          of the Congressional Black Caucus, a fierce advocate

1 for women's rights and democracy, and a staunch  
2 opponent of the Vietnam War.

3 (17) Shirley Chisholm was an outspoken advo-  
4 cate for equal rights, early childhood education, fair  
5 labor standards, and the Martin Luther King, Jr.  
6 holiday effort.

7 (18) Shirley Chisholm further cemented her  
8 place in history when she became the first African-  
9 American person to seek a major political party's  
10 nomination for President in 1972.

11 (19) There is a real need to honor these women  
12 and others like them more often in our Nation's ar-  
13 tistic and cultural venues.

14 **SEC. 3. SPECIAL POSTAGE STAMP.**

15 In order to afford the public a convenient means by  
16 which to contribute towards the acquisition (for public dis-  
17 play in the United States Capitol and other appropriate  
18 locations) of works of art honoring Jeannette Rankin,  
19 Mary Teresa Norton, Patsy Mink, Shirley Anita St. Hill  
20 Chisholm, and other female pioneers in Government serv-  
21 ice, the United States Postal Service shall provide for the  
22 issuance and sale of a semipostal in accordance with sec-  
23 tion 416 of title 39, United States Code, subject to the  
24 following:

1           (1) DISPOSITION OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—All  
2           amounts becoming available from the sale of the  
3           semipostal shall be transferred by the Postal Service  
4           to the Capitol Preservation Commission and the  
5           House Fine Arts Board (which is hereby authorized  
6           to accept any such amounts) under such arrange-  
7           ments as the Postal Service and those entities shall  
8           by mutual agreement establish in order to carry out  
9           the purposes of this Act.

10          (2) NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY TO ISSUE  
11          OTHER STAMPS.—No semipostal issued pursuant to  
12          this Act shall be taken into account for purposes of  
13          applying any numerical limitation established under  
14          section 416(e)(1)(C) of such title 39.

15 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

16          For purposes of this Act—

17               (1) the term “semipostal” has the meaning  
18               given such term by section 416(a)(1) of title 39,  
19               United States Code;

20               (2) any determination of the “amounts becom-  
21               ing available” from the sale of the semipostal shall  
22               be made in accordance with section 416(d) of such  
23               title 39;

24               (3) the term “Capitol Preservation Commis-  
25               sion” means the United States Capitol Preservation

1 Commission, established by section 801 of Public  
2 Law 100–696 (2 U.S.C. 2081); and

3 (4) the term “House Fine Arts Board” means  
4 the House of Representatives Fine Arts Board, es-  
5 tablished by section 1001 of Public Law 100–696 (2  
6 U.S.C. 2121).

○