^{112TH CONGRESS} 1ST SESSION H.R. 1785

To prohibit the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution from charging a fee for admission to any exhibit which is part of the permanent collection of any museum or facility which is part of any bureau established in or under the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 5, 2011

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

- To prohibit the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution from charging a fee for admission to any exhibit which is part of the permanent collection of any museum or facility which is part of any bureau established in or under the Smithsonian Institution, 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,

1 SECTION 1. PROHIBITING CHARGING OF FEES FOR ADMIS-

2 SION TO PERMANENT COLLECTIONS OF 3 SMITHSONIAN MUSEUMS OR FACILITIES.

4 (a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsections 5 (a) and (b), the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution 6 may not charge a fee for admission to any exhibit which 7 is part of the permanent collection of any museum or facil-8 ity which is part of any bureau established in or under 9 the Smithsonian Institution, including the National Gal-10 lery of Art.

(b) EXCEPTION FOR NECESSARY AND UNAVOIDABLE
FEES.—The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution may
charge a fee for admission to an exhibit described in subsection (a) if—

(1) the Secretary determines that charging a
fee for admission to the exhibit is necessary and unavoidable;

18 (2) the Secretary submits a statement explain-19 ing the determination to the Committee on House 20 Administration of the House of Representatives, the 21 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of 22 the House of Representatives, the Committee on En-23 vironment and Public Works of the Senate, and the 24 Committee on Rules and Administration of the Sen-25 ate; and

(3) the charging of the fee does not take effect
 until after the expiration of the 45-day period which
 begins on the date the Secretary submits the state ment under paragraph (1).

5 (c) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN CURRENT EXHIBIT.—
6 This section does not apply to the exhibit entitled "But7 terfly Pavilion" at the National Museum of Natural His8 tory.

9 SEC. 2. PLAN FOR ELIMINATION OF FEE FOR CURRENT EX10 HIBIT.

11 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-12 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institu-13 tion shall submit to the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, the Committee on 14 15 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public 16 Works of the Senate, and the Committee on Rules and 17 18 Administration of the Senate a plan for eliminating the 19 admission fee for the exhibit entitled "Butterfly Pavilion" at the National Museum of Natural History, and shall in-20 21 clude in the plan such steps as the Secretary considers 22 appropriate to cover the expenses incurred in carrying out 23 the exhibit.

0