

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8519

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs that include the history of peoples of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the settling and founding of America, the social, economic, and political environments that led to the development of discriminatory laws targeting Asians and Pacific Islanders and their relation to current events, and the impact and contributions of Asian Americans to the development and enhancement of American life, United States history, literature, the economy, politics, body of laws, and culture, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 2020

Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CASE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. TRONE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. COX of California, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Ms. SPEIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs that include the history of peoples of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the settling and founding of America, the social, economic, and political environments that led to the development of discriminatory laws targeting Asians and Pacific Islanders and their relation to current

events, and the impact and contributions of Asian Americans to the development and enhancement of American life, United States history, literature, the economy, politics, body of laws, and culture, 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 “Teaching Asian Pacific
 5 American History Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The United States of America has benefited
 9 from the integral role Asian Americans and Pacific
 10 Islanders have played in our country’s history and
 11 contributions to the world.

12 (2) The Pacific Island Territories of Guam,
 13 American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the
 14 Northern Mariana Islands have unique histories that
 15 are often overlooked in American history despite
 16 their immense contributions to our Nation.

17 (3) The traditional American K–12 curriculum
 18 continues to be taught from a Eurocentric point of
 19 view and exclude histories of racist immigration laws
 20 relevant to policies today.

21 (4) K–12 social studies textbooks poorly rep-
 22 resent Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, over-

1 look the diversity within those communities, and
2 print images of Asian Americans and Pacific Island-
3 ers in stereotypical roles.

4 (5) The Federal Government, through support
5 for educational activities of national museums estab-
6 lished under Federal law, can assist teachers in ef-
7 forts to incorporate historically accurate instruction
8 on the comprehensive history of Asian Americans
9 and Pacific Islanders and assist students in their ex-
10 ploration of Asian Pacific American history as an in-
11 tegral part of American history.

12 (6) The history of America's system of immi-
13 gration is rife with racism, embedded in goals of hir-
14 ing workers to work for cheaper wages and labor in
15 heinous working conditions.

16 (7) Congress has continuously passed anti-
17 Asian laws as the result of the scapegoating of Asian
18 immigrant laborers for the United States economic
19 downturns.

20 (8) The history of South Asian Americans in
21 the United States dates back to the late 1700s.

22 (9) The history of Native Hawaiians and Pa-
23 cific Islanders in what is now considered to be the
24 United States predates the founding of our Nation.

1 (10) In 1993, Congress passed a resolution that
2 was signed into law formally apologizing for the
3 United States role in the illegal overthrow of the
4 Kingdom of Hawaii, which resulted in the suppression of the inherent sovereignty of the Native Hawaiian people.

7 (11) Twelve thousand Chinese laborers worked
8 in atrocious conditions to build the Transcontinental
9 Railroad, many dying from harsh weather conditions
10 and the dangers of handling explosives.

11 (12) After the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
12 banned Chinese immigrants from immigrating to the
13 United States, Japanese were hired. After the Japanese were banned from immigrating due to the Gentleman's Agreement of 1907, which halted immigration from Japan, Filipinos were hired under 3-year contracts.

18 (13) Filipino farm workers helped found the
19 farm worker labor movement.

20 (14) The Immigration Act of 1917 restricted
21 immigration to the United States by barring immigration from the Asia-Pacific zone.

23 (15) The Immigration Act of 1924 set a national origin quota to deter immigration.

1 (16) The Immigration Act of 1965 made family
2 unification and skills-based migration the bedrock
3 principle of immigration to the United States.

4 (17) The United States conducted nuclear test-
5 ing on the Bikini and Enewetak Atoll of the Mar-
6 shall Islands have made parts of the island nation
7 uninhabitable and caused forced migration and
8 health complications that still impact the community
9 today.

10 (18) The United States ratified a Compact of
11 Free Association with the Federated States of Mi-
12 cronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the
13 Republic of Palau enabling citizens of these Pacific
14 Island nations to legally migrate to the United
15 States visa-free while the United States retains cer-
16 tain strategic military rights over their territorial
17 waters.

18 (19) In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, the
19 Refugee Act of 1980 helped more than 500,000
20 Southeast Asians gain permanent resident status in
21 the United States within the first decade of its pas-
22 sage.

23 (20) President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Execu-
24 tive Order 9066 authorized the incarceration of over

1 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of
2 whom were American citizens, based solely on race.

3 (21) The Pacific Islander community represents
4 the largest concentration of any ethnic group en-
5 listed in the United States military, as well as rep-
6 resenting the highest numbers of casualties in the
7 current wars on terror.

8 (22) The “model minority” myth perpetuates
9 the stigma of Asian Americans as perpetual for-
10 eigners, and such stereotypes are used to pit minor-
11 ity groups against one another.

12 (23) The pattern of hate crimes and hate inci-
13 dents directed at Asians and Asian Americans has
14 repeated itself throughout history.

15 (24) Asian-American and African-American his-
16 tories of fighting against oppression and racism are
17 intertwined, from the Black Power Movement of the
18 1960s that birthed the Asian American Movement to
19 civil rights protests today.

20 (25) Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and
21 their allies continue to fight discrimination, racial
22 prejudice, hate crimes, scapegoating, structural rac-
23 ism, economic inequities, and benign and overt omis-
24 sion of the integral role they played in the develop-
25 ment of this country.

1 **SEC. 3. AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS EDUCATION.**

2 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—Section 2231(a) of the
3 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
4 U.S.C. 6661(a)) is amended—

5 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
6 inserting “, which shall include Asian Pacific Amer-
7 ican history,” after “American history”; and

8 (2) in paragraph (2)—

9 (A) by inserting “which shall include Asian
10 Pacific American history,” after “American his-
11 tory,”; and

12 (B) by inserting “, which shall include
13 Asian Pacific American history” after “tradi-
14 tional American history”.

15 (b) PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ACADEMIES
16 FOR AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.—Section 2232 of
17 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
18 U.S.C. 6662) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, which
21 shall include Asian Pacific American history,”
22 after “American History”; and

23 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, which
24 shall include Asian Pacific American history,”
25 after “American History”;

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “, which shall include Asian Pacific American history,” after “American history”;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “, which shall include Asian Pacific American history,” after “American history”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by inserting “, which shall include Asian Pacific American history,” after “teachers of American history”; and

(II) by inserting “, which shall include Asian Pacific American history,” after “subjects of American history”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, which shall include Asian Pacific American history,” after “American history”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, which shall include Asian Pacific American history,” after “American history”; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, and with the Smithsonian Institution’s Asian Pacific

American Center to provide programs and resources for educators and students” after “National Parks”; and

(4) in subsection (f)—

(A) by inserting “, which shall include Asian Pacific American history,” after “American history”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, which shall include Asian Pacific American history,” after “American history”; and

(C) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, which shall include Asian Pacific American history,” after “American history”.

(c) NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Section 2233 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6663) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “which shall include Asian Pacific American history,” after “American history”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting “which shall include Asian Pacific American history,” after “American history”.

(d) NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS.—Section 303(b)(2)(D) of the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (20

1 U.S.C. 9622(b)(2)(D)) is amended by inserting “(which
2 shall include Asian Pacific American history)” after “his-
3 tory,”.

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