

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4292

To prohibit Federal funds from being made available to teach the 1619 Project curriculum in elementary schools and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23, 2020

Mr. COTTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To prohibit Federal funds from being made available to teach the 1619 Project curriculum in elementary schools and secondary schools, 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 “Saving American His-
5 tory Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The true date of America’s founding is July
2 4, 1776, the day the Declaration of Independence
3 was adopted by the Second Continental Congress.

4 (2) The self-evident truths set forth by that
5 Declaration are the fundamental principles upon
6 which America was founded.

7 (3) An activist movement is now gaining mo-
8 mentum to deny or obfuscate this history by claim-
9 ing that America was not founded on the ideals of
10 the Declaration but rather on slavery and oppres-
11 sion.

12 (4) This distortion of American history is being
13 taught to children in public school classrooms via the
14 New York Times’ “1619 Project”, which claims that
15 “nearly everything that has truly made America ex-
16 ceptional” grew “out of slavery”.

17 (5) The 1619 Project is a racially divisive and
18 revisionist account of history that threatens the in-
19 tegrity of the Union by denying the true principles
20 on which it was founded.

21 (6) The Federal Government has a strong in-
22 terest in promoting an accurate account of the Na-
23 tion’s history through public schools and forming
24 young people into knowledgeable and patriotic citi-
25 zens.

1 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS**
2 **TO TEACH THE 1619 PROJECT CURRICULUM.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ESEA.—The terms “elementary school”,
5 “local educational agency”, and “secondary school”
6 have the meanings given the terms in section 8101
7 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

9 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretaries”
10 means the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of
11 Agriculture, and the Secretary of Health and
12 Human Services.

13 (b) PROHIBITION OF USE OF FEDERAL FUNDING
14 FOR 1619 PROJECT.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
15 sion of law, no Federal funds shall be used by any—

16 (1) elementary school or secondary school to
17 teach the 1619 Project initiative of the New York
18 Times in such school; or

19 (2) local educational agency to support the
20 teaching of the 1619 Project initiative of the New
21 York Times in the public schools served by such
22 agency.

23 (c) PROHIBITION ON FEDERAL PROFESSIONAL DE-
24 VELOPMENT FUNDS FOR SCHOOLS THAT TEACH THE
25 1619 PROJECT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
26 law, an elementary school or secondary school that teaches

1 the 1619 Project initiative of the New York Times in such
2 school or a local educational agency that supports the
3 teaching of the 1619 Project initiative of the New York
4 Times in the public schools served by such agency shall
5 not receive any Federal funding for professional develop-
6 ment.

7 (d) DETERMINATION OF COST AND REDUCTION IN
8 FEDERAL FUNDS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an elementary
10 school or secondary school that receives Federal
11 funds and teaches the 1619 Project initiative of the
12 New York Times in such school or a local edu-
13 cational agency that supports the teaching of the
14 1619 Project initiative of the New York Times in
15 the public schools served by such agency, the Secre-
16 taries shall determine the cost associated with teach-
17 ing the 1619 Project, including in planning time and
18 teaching time.

19 (2) REDUCTIONS.—The Secretaries, based on
20 coordinated prorated formulas established by the
21 Secretaries, shall reduce Federal funds provided to
22 an elementary school, secondary school, or local edu-
23 cational agency described in paragraph (1) in an
24 amount equal to the cost amount determined under
25 paragraph (1).

1 (3) NO REDUCTION FOR CERTAIN FUNDS.—In
2 reducing Federal funds to an elementary school, sec-
3 ondary school, or local educational agency under
4 paragraph (2), the Secretaries shall not reduce Fed-
5 eral funds for—

6 (A) the free and reduced price school lunch
7 program established under the Richard B. Rus-
8 sell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
9 1751 et seq.), or any other program for low-in-
10 come students; or

11 (B) students with disabilities.

12 (e) FUTURE FUNDING.—The Secretaries shall pro-
13 mulgate regulations to ensure that Federal funds provided
14 after the date of enactment of this Act to an elementary
15 school, secondary school, or local educational agency com-
16 ply with the requirements and restrictions provided under
17 this Act.

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