

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4994

To prohibit the use of Federal funds for Confederate symbols, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 10, 2021

Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. MENG, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. BASS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. KILMER, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARSON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. PAPPAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 prohibit the use of Federal funds for Confederate symbols, 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 “No Federal Funding
5 for Confederate Symbols Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Confederate battle flag is one of the
4 most controversial symbols from U.S. history, signi-
5 fying a representation of racism, slavery, and the op-
6 pression of African Americans.

7 (2) The Confederate flag and the erection of
8 Confederate monuments were used as symbols to re-
9 sist efforts to dismantle Jim Crow segregation, and
10 have become pillars of Ku Klux Klan rallies.

11 (3) There are at least 1,503 symbols of the
12 Confederacy in public spaces, including 109 public
13 schools named after prominent Confederates, many
14 with large African-American student populations.

15 (4) There are more than 700 Confederate
16 monuments and statues on public property through-
17 out the country, the vast majority in the South.
18 These include 96 monuments in Virginia, 90 in
19 Georgia, and 90 in North Carolina.

20 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL FUNDS RESTRICTION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
22 (c), no Federal funds may be used for the creation, main-
23 tenance, or display, as applicable, of any Confederate sym-
24 bol on Federal public land, including any highway, park,
25 subway, Federal building, military installation, street, or
26 other Federal property.

1 (b) CONFEDERATE SYMBOL DEFINED.—The term
2 “Confederate symbol” includes the following:

3 (1) A Confederate battle flag.

4 (2) Any symbol or other signage that honors
5 the Confederacy.

6 (3) Any monument or statue that honors a
7 Confederate leader or soldier or the Confederate
8 States of America.

9 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (a) does not apply—

10 (1) if the use of such funds is necessary to
11 allow for removal of the Confederate symbol to ad-
12 dress public safety; or

13 (2) in the case of a Confederate symbol created,
14 maintained, or displayed in a museum or educational
15 exhibit.

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