

and Reservists, make many sacrifices to protect our freedom. When called to active duty, Reservists are asked to spend time away from home, to selfishly put themselves in harm's way and, in many cases, to accept a salary that is less than what they would normally earn in civilian life.

The gap in pay experienced by these servicemen and -women often causes undue hardship to them and their families and increases the already heavy burden placed upon them as they leave for battle. I am pleased that this legislation will empower the House of Representatives to do its part to eliminate the financial hardship for those brave employees and their families.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1679.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1679, the "House Reservists Pay Adjustment Act of 2009". I would like to thank my colleague ROBERT BRADY for introducing this legislation. H.R. 1679 moves to require that the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to pay an eligible House employee, who is also a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces, for each active duty month, the amount by which the employee's regular compensation from the House would have exceeded the total monthly military compensation paid to the employee for the active duty month by the Secretary of Defense.

The men and women in our Nation's reserve program are vital in our country's greatest time of need. They serve as military personnel, taking the time to stay trained and ready to serve this country at anytime when we as Congress vote to send them into combat. Their entire lives are put on hold, and families left behind to pick up the workload when a member is selected for active duty. They also hold civilian jobs like the employees covered under H.R. 1679, those employed by the House of Representatives. This commitment that they make to our country is much greater than the commitment we make today. In passing this legislation we can guarantee that the payment made to these soldiers by the House is the same when these employees are working as civilians or when they are called to active duty. As they watch a family member leave for service and questions of who will do the household duties that they usually perform. The worst thing we as Congress could do is ask them to take a pay cut.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1679, the "House Reservists Pay Adjustment Act of 2009". To require that the Chief Administrative Officer of the House pay House employees, who are also Reservists of the Armed Forces, for each active duty month the amount by which the employee's regular compensation from the House would have exceeded the total monthly military compensation.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1679.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY PROJECT ACT OF 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 586) to direct the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out a joint project at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of individuals who participated in the Civil Rights movement, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 586

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

(1) A fundamental principle of American democracy is that individuals should stand up for their rights and beliefs and fight for justice.

(2) The actions of those who participated in the Civil Rights movement from the 1950s through the 1960s are a shining example of this principle in action, demonstrated in events as varied as the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the sit-ins, the Freedom Rides, the March on Washington, the drive for voting rights in Mississippi, and the March to Selma.

(3) While the Civil Rights movement had many visible leaders, including Thurgood Marshall, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks, there were many others whose impact and experience were just as important to the cause but who are not as well known.

(4) The participants in the Civil Rights movement possess an invaluable resource in their first-hand memories of the movement, and the recording of the retelling of their stories and memories will provide a rich, detailed history of our Nation during an important and tumultuous period.

(5) It is in the Nation's interest to undertake a project to collect oral histories of individuals from the Civil Rights movement so future generations will be able to learn of their struggle and sacrifice through primary-source, eyewitness material. A coordinated Federal project would also focus attention on the efforts undertaken by various public and private entities to collect and interpret articles in all formats relating to the Civil Rights movement, and serve as a model for future projects undertaken in museums, libraries, and universities throughout the Nation.

(6) The Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution are appropriate repositories to collect, preserve, and make available to the public a collection of these oral histories. The Library and Smithsonian have expertise in the management of documentation projects, and experience in the development of cultural and educational programs for the public.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to create a new federally sponsored, authorized, and funded project that will coordinate at a national level the collection of video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of individuals who participated in the American Civil Rights movement that will build upon and complement previous and ongoing documentary work on this subject, and to assist and encourage local efforts to preserve the memories of such individuals so that Americans of all current and future generations may hear from them directly and better appreciate the sacrifices they made.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT PROJECT AT LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE TO COLLECT VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDINGS OF HISTORIES OF PARTICIPANTS IN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Within the limits of available funds, the Librarian of Congress (hereafter referred to as the "Librarian") and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution (hereafter referred to as the "Secretary"), acting jointly, shall establish an oral history project—

(A) to survey, during the initial phase of the project, collections of audio and video recordings of the reminiscences of participants in the Civil Rights movement that are housed in archives, libraries, museums, and other educational institutions, as well as ongoing documentary work, in order to augment and complement these endeavors and avoid duplication of effort;

(B) to solicit, reproduce, and collect—

(i) video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of individuals who participated in the Civil Rights movement, and

(ii) visual and written materials (such as letters, diaries, photographs, and ephemera) relevant to the personal histories of individuals;

(C) to create a collection of the recordings and other materials obtained, and to catalog and index the collection in a manner the Librarian and the Secretary consider appropriate; and

(D) to make the collection available for public use through the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, as well as through such other methods as the Librarian and the Secretary consider appropriate.

(2) ROLE OF DIRECTOR OF MUSEUM.—The Secretary shall carry out the Secretary's duties under this Act through the Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

(b) USE OF AND CONSULTATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—The Librarian and the Secretary may carry out the activities described in subsection (a)(1) through agreements and partnerships entered into with other government and private entities, and may otherwise consult with interested persons (within the limits of available resources) and develop appropriate guidelines and arrangements for soliciting, acquiring, and making available recordings under the project under this Act.

(c) SERVICES OF EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS; ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES;

ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—In carrying out activities described in subsection (a)(1), the Librarian and the Secretary may—

(1) procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) accept and utilize the services of volunteers and other uncompensated personnel and reimburse them for travel expenses, including per diem, as authorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code; and

(3) make advances of money and payments in advance in accordance with section 3324 of title 31, United States Code.

(d) TIMING.—As soon as practicable after the enactment of this Act, the Librarian and the Secretary shall begin collecting video and audio recordings and other materials under subsection (a)(1), and shall attempt to collect the first such recordings from the oldest individuals involved.

(e) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term “Civil Rights movement” means the movement to secure racial equality in the United States for African Americans that, focusing on the period 1954 through 1968, challenged the practice of racial segregation in the Nation and achieved equal rights legislation for all American citizens.

SEC. 4. PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY PROJECT.

(a) ENCOURAGING SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.—The Librarian of Congress and the Secretary are encouraged to solicit and accept donations of funds and in-kind contributions to support activities under section 3.

(b) DEDICATION OF FUNDS PROVIDED TO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) any funds donated to the Librarian of Congress to support the activities of the Librarian under section 3 shall be deposited entirely into an account established for such purpose;

(2) the funds contained in such account shall be used solely to support such activities; and

(3) the Librarian of Congress may not deposit into such account any funds donated to the Librarian which are not donated for the exclusive purpose of supporting such activities.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act—

(1) \$500,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

(2) such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 586, which would create the Civil Rights History Project. The bill directs the Library of Congress and the Smith-

sonian Institution, through the Museum of African American History and Culture, to collaborate and establish an oral history project. This joint venture will collect and preserve audio and video recordings by participants in the civil rights movement.

A fundamental principle of our American democracy is that individuals stand up for their rights and beliefs, and pursue justice through peaceful action. Many who participated in the civil rights movement did so at great personal sacrifice. Their actions were heroic and tireless and challenged the practice of racial segregation in the Nation. They challenged the status quo and won equal rights for all American citizens.

Much of this history has never been written down from the perspective of those who were there. As these pioneers age, it is important that their memories of events are documented so that future generations can witness their testimony regarding the lives and times of that era. This bill would ensure that the record of this important period of our Nation's history is not lost.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such as much time as I may consume.

I am pleased to support H.R. 586, a bill that will allow for the collection and preservation of eyewitness accounts of the civil rights movement from the people who lived through it. This investment in history will allow future generations to both learn and be inspired by the sacrifice of those that came before them.

While some stories of prominent civil rights leaders are well-documented, there are many lesser-known experiences and accounts just as important to the cause and lessons we and future generations can learn. Now is the time to collect the stories of those that stood up for their rights and fought for justice.

I believe that this is an important piece of legislation that will provide future generations with the rich collection of oral accounts from individuals who lived through the civil rights movement, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Committee report regarding H.R. 586:

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

H.R. 586, the Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009, would authorize funding to create a comprehensive compilation of audio and video recordings of personal histories and testimonials of individuals who participated in the Civil Rights movement.

BILL SUMMARY

H.R. 586 would direct the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture to jointly work to collect and preserve for posterity audio and video recordings of the memories and stories of individuals who participated in and witnessed first-hand the Civil Rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s.

As participants in the Civil Rights movement continue to age, it is important that memories and stories of those individuals who participated in events such as the sit-ins, the Freedom Rides, the drive for voting rights in Mississippi, and the March to Selma are documented so that future generations will be able to access original sources of information regarding the lives and times of that era.

The purpose of this Act is to coordinate at a national level the collection and the preservation of oral and video recordings. It will also serve to complement previous and ongoing documentary work on this subject.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

H.R. 586 was introduced on January 15, 2009 by Representative Carolyn McCarthy of New York along with Representative John Lewis of Georgia. On March 25, 2009, the Committee considered H.R. 151 and, by voice vote, ordered the bill reported favorably without amendment. No recorded votes were taken during the consideration of the bill.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR H.R. 586

It is in the best interest of the Nation to undertake the Civil Rights History Project so that future generations will be able to learn of the struggles and sacrifices of those who participated in the Civil Rights movement. A basic principle of democracy is that individuals should stand up for their rights and beliefs and pursue justice. The Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution will join forces to develop an extensive collection of oral histories of those participants who played a part and witnessed the American Civil Rights movement.

The Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution have jointly signed a letter of intent outlining their agreement to carry out identified activities related to the project to the extent that funding for the project is available through appropriations or donations, specifically committing to create a detailed Memorandum of Understanding within two months of enactment of H.R. 586. That letter is appended to this report.

ANALYSIS OF THE BILL (AS REPORTED)

The Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009 requires the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution (acting through the Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture) to establish an oral history project to: (1) collect video and audio recordings of, and visual and written materials relevant to the personal histories of participants in the Civil Rights movement; and (2) make the collection available for public use through the Library of Congress and the Museum.

Section 1. Section 1 states the short title of the Act, the “Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009.”

Section 2. Section 2 states that the participants in the civil rights movement hold an invaluable resource in their first-hand accounts of the era. The retelling of their memories and stories will capture the real-life events and actions of those who participated in the civil rights movement from the 1950's through the 1960's. Much is known about the lives of Thurgood Marshall, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks and other prominent leaders of the movement; however, there were many others whose impact and experience were just as important to the cause but whose stories are not well known or documented.

Section 3. Section 3 establishes the joint project at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The initial phase of the project will be to survey the collections of audio and video recordings that are housed

in various archives, libraries, museums, and other education institutions. The next step will be to solicit and collect materials that will create an extensive collection to be made available for public use through the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Section 4. Section 4 requires private support for the Civil Rights History Project. Both the Librarian of Congress and the Smithsonian Secretary are encouraged to solicit and accept donations of funds and in-kind contributions to support the collection of materials.

Section 5. Section 5 authorizes appropriations to carry out this Act—

- 1) \$500,000 for Fiscal Year 2010; and
- 2) Such sums as may be necessary for each of the Fiscal Years 2011 through 2014.

MATTERS REQUIRED UNDER RULES OF THE HOUSE

Constitutional Authority

Clause 3(d)(1) of House Rule XIII requires each committee report on a public bill or joint resolution to include a statement citing the specific constitutional power(s) granted to the Congress on which the Committee relies for enactment of the measure under consideration. The Committee cites the legislative power granted to Congress in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of House Rule XIII requires the results of each recorded vote on an amendment or motion to report, together with the names of those voting for and against, to be printed in the committee report. No recorded votes were taken during the Committee's consideration of H.R. 586.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

Clause 3(c)(3) of House Rules XIII requires the report of a committee on a measure which has been approved by the committee to include a cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the CBA, if timely submitted. The Director submitted the following estimate:

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
U.S. CONGRESS,
Washington, DC, March 27, 2009.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 586, the Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Christina Hawley Anthony, who can be reached at 226-2820.

Sincerely,
for DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF,
Director.

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

MARCH 27, 2009.

H.R. 586 CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY PROJECT ACT OF 2009

As ordered reported by the Committee on House Administration on March 25, 2009

H.R. 586 would direct the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to establish an oral history project to survey, solicit, reproduce, and collect audio and video recordings of participants in the Civil Rights movement. The bill would permit the Librarian and Secretary to solicit and accept donations of funds and in-kind contributions to support those activities. In addition, H.R. 586 would authorize the appropriation of \$500,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

Based on information from the two agencies, and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 586 would cost \$4 million over the 2010-2014 period.

Because H.R. 586 would allow the Librarian and Secretary to accept and spend donations for projects, enacting H.R. 586 could affect direct spending, but the spending would be offset by the amount of the donations, which would be credited as offsetting receipts. Thus, CBO estimates that enacting the provision would not have a significant net effect on direct spending.

H.R. 586 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Christina Hawley Anthony. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Federal Mandates

Section 423 of the CBA requires a committee report on any public bill or joint resolution that includes a federal mandate to include specific information about such mandates. The Committee states that H.R. 586 includes no federal mandates.

Preemption Clarification

Section 423 of the CBA requires a committee report on any public bill or joint resolution to include a committee statement on the extent to which the measure is intended to preempt state or local law. The Committee states that H.R. 586 is not intended to preempt any state or local law.

Oversight Findings

Clause 3(c)(1) of Rule XIII requires each committee report to contain oversight findings and recommendations required pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of House Rule X. The Committee has general oversight responsibility of the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution. The Committee has included the findings in the body of the report.

Statement of General Performance Goals and Objectives

Clause 3(c)(4) of House Rule XIII requires committee reports to include a statement of general performance goals and objectives. The Committee believes enactment of the bill would enhance the collections at both the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution. It would gather and preserve invaluable historical information, and provide additional resources to scholars for research, and to the public.

Congressional "Earmarks"

Clause 9 of House Rule XXI requires committee reports on public bills and resolutions to contain an identification of congressional "earmarks," limited tax benefits, limited tariff benefits, and the names of requesting Members. The bill contains no such items either as introduced or as reported to the House.

Congressional Accountability Act Applicability

Section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (Pub.L. 104-1) (CAA) requires each report on a public bill or joint resolution relating to terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations to describe the manner in which the legislation apply to the Legislative Branch. H.R. 586 does not impact any provisions covered by the CAA.

Changes in Existing Law Made by the Bill, as Reported

H.R. 586 makes no changes in existing law.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 586, the Civil Rights Oral History Project.

I want to thank Chairman BRADY and the Committee on House Administration for moving the bill to the floor.

I also want to thank my lead cosponsor on the bill, Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, himself a civil rights hero, for all of his help in developing and generating support for the bill.

Mr. LEWIS was at the forefront of the battle to end segregation and his contribution to ensuring equality in our country cannot be overstated.

I know I speak for all of my colleagues when I say that we are honored to serve with him and grateful for all that he has done and continues to do for all Americans as a steward of justice and equal rights.

We are fortunate to serve in Congress with several other influential civil rights leaders and I would like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" for their sacrifices and commitment to the cause of freedom.

The fight for civil rights was one of the most significant social and cultural movements in our Nation's history.

The will of a generation to right centuries of injustice changed the world we live in forever.

The leaders of the civil rights movement displayed tremendous courage and persistence to ensure that all Americans were treated equally and with dignity regardless of their ethnic backgrounds, race or origins.

Many leaders from all walks of life put their lives on the line to make it possible for all people to live freely and have the same fundamental rights.

In my Congressional District, there are many important leaders who fought to ensure equal rights for all Long Islanders.

Brave Americans like Irving C. McKnight from Roosevelt, Mr. McNeil from Hempstead, Mrs. Iris Johnson from Freeport, Fred Brewington and Sal Zaccaro from Malverne and so many others.

We can never overstate the contributions of our Nation's civil rights leaders.

Without their efforts many of the things we take for granted every day would not have come to pass.

It is vital that future generations know and understand the struggles and challenges of those that paved the way for us to live in a free Nation.

These brave Americans' stories must continue to be told to not only inspire future generations, but to remind people of what is possible in America and how far we have come.

Unfortunately, with each passing year, our Nation loses more and more of the people that played major roles in the struggle to secure equal rights for all Americans.

In recent years, we have lost great leaders like Mrs. Coretta Scott King and Mrs. Rosa Parks.

Thankfully, their stories have been well documented in the historic record, but there are many others who have already passed or whose memories are fading.

While we know so much about the lives of the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, our colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and Thurgood Marshall, it is important that we learn about the everyday people of all races who took a stand during a pivotal time in our Nation's history.

There were so many people who were crucial to the civil rights movement, but have not had as much recorded about their experiences for the public record.

These were the people in many cases that were a part of some of the most significant battles in the fight for equality.

The workers in Memphis that went on strike and marched in protest with Dr. King, the students that held sit-ins at lunch counters in the south, the thousands of people that marched on Washington and witnessed the "I Have a Dream Speech" and the millions of Americans that stood up and worked in their own ways to make our country a better place for all people.

These people are heroes of the civil rights movement and we need to make sure that their stories are woven into the fabric of the American story.

That's why I have introduced the Civil Rights Oral History bill.

The purpose of the Civil Rights Oral History Bill is to catalogue and preserve the stories and experiences of the people who were involved with the civil rights movement.

This legislation stresses the importance of capturing the memories and deeds of the Civil Rights generation and will give us a unique insight into the experiences of the people that were really on the frontlines of the civil rights movement.

This bill will create a joint effort between the future National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Library of Congress to collect oral histories of the people that were involved in the civil rights movement and preserve their stories for future generations.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and take the time to acknowledge the contributions of those great Americans who fought to make our Nation a more fair and just place.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 586, "Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009." I want to thank my colleague Congresswoman CAROLYN MCCARTHY of New York for introducing this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support the "Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009," which will require the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution (acting through the Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture) to establish an oral history project to: (1) collect video and audio recordings of, and visual and written materials relevant to the personal histories of, participants in the Civil Rights movement; and (2) make the collection available for public use through the Library of Congress and the Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the progress we have made in casting out the demons of prejudice and discrimination. I rise today in recognition of the steps we have taken as a nation to get closer to the American creed that all men were created equal.

In the darkest days of slavery, the faith of our ancestors that one day their descendants would live in freedom helped them bear the unbearable burden of bondage. Through all the terrible years of Jim Crow's legalized segregation, the courage of our great-grandparents to provide for their children and maintain their dignity while enduring a hundred daily slights helped bring down the Jericho walls of de jure segregation. In the crucible of the Civil Rights Movement, the determination of our parents and grandparents to secure the full measure of equal treatment under law for themselves and their children changed America and made it better.

From the activism of Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman during the abolitionist movement to the efforts of Rosa Parks, Martin King, Thurgood Marshall, and Fannie Lou Hamer during the civil rights movement, Americans have never lost faith in this country to expand democracy and provide true freedom for all Americans.

Now is the time to come together. Now is the time to reach down to our roots and call upon what is important to us. Now is the time to talk to each of our brothers and sisters and let them know that we have to come together on this issue.

The heart of what we have fought for so long is at stake now. We have fought and suffered to attain our place at the table of society, to show America and the rest of the world that diversity does work, that America will make good on its promise, that our society does accept people who are different from each other.

I am reminded of what the late Honorable Barbara Jordan said that "America's mission was and still is to take diversity and mold it into a cohesive and coherent whole that would espouse virtues and values essential to the maintenance of civil order. There is nothing easy about that mission. But it is not mission impossible."

Mr. Speaker, we should not now give up on this start. We must remember the struggles of those freedom fighters. I am reminded of the words of Dr. King when he was the minister at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama when he told a packed house the night before the bus boycott set off by Rosa Parks that they were in the process of making America whole. He told them, "If we are wrong, the Constitution of the United States is wrong. If we are wrong, Jesus of Nazareth was merely a utopian dreamer and never came down to earth. If we are wrong, justice is a lie. And we are determined to work and fight until justice runs down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream."

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 586, because the most valuable tool, history, gives us is a frame of reference, a perspective, for viewing our world. This Civil Rights History Project will provide us that magnificent perspective of our tremendous successes and failures in our quest for cultural freedom and acceptance. When we cut ourselves off from the past, either intentionally or simply through an ignorance of the past, we fall prey to every twist and turn, every immediate crisis that life brings along—with no power or stability to re-

solve those crises. If we ignore the past or are simply ignorant of what has happened before, we may fall prey to a sense of false security, a personal or cultural pride, which blinds us to possibilities all around us, stunting our moral and intellectual growth and limiting our options in every area of life.

Mr. Speaker, this is the challenge we face today and we have to stand up and be understood. We have to be understood that civil rights in America is about opportunity and is the natural extension of Aotir Bill of Rights. It creates a place at the table, a place where we deserve to be, a place that we have earned, a place where we belong. Keep hope alive. Let's not turn out the lights on civil rights.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, America's Civil Rights movement was a great step forward for all of the citizens of this great nation. This movement has brought us one step closer to an America where one's race does not serve as a barrier against greater opportunity. This movement has allowed our great country to reach a point where any child—black or white, girl or boy, rich or poor—can dream of becoming President of the United States.

The Civil Rights movement is what allowed many of us in this chamber to be here, myself included. We, and the rest of America, owe a debt of gratitude to this movement and its courageous leaders. Many lived through this movement and fought for it. Others grew up surrounded by its stories.

Unfortunately, as the years go by, we are slowly losing some of our courageous Civil Rights leaders. Just recently, we have lost Civil Rights pioneers such as Mrs. Coretta Scott King and Mrs. Rosa Parks. It is vital that we preserve the stories of these heroes so that future generations will know of the struggles and sacrifices made on their behalf. For this reason, I am urging the passage of H.R. 586, the Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009.

This bill provides for the collection of oral histories from those individuals who were involved first hand in the struggles of the Civil Rights movement. This collection will be organized by the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Library of Congress.

Now is the time for us to embark on this project. If we wait, we may lose this chance forever. The recorded retelling of these stories will provide a rich history for future generations. It will bring future students of this momentous era closer to the people who shaped it. The voices of the Civil Rights movement—voices which were lifted up in the cause of justice—deserve to be preserved for years to come.

Although the Civil Rights era was a tumultuous time for our country, it is also a time where the nation came out stronger as a whole. The Civil Rights Oral History Project will celebrate this history and pave the way for future generations to realize what is possible when people come together.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 586.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AUTHORIZING EMANCIPATION HALL FOR UNVEILING SOJOURNER TRUTH BUST

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 86) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a bust of Sojourner Truth.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 86

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR UNVEILING OF SOJOURNER TRUTH BUST.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for an event on April 28, 2009, to unveil a bust of Sojourner Truth.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a bust of Sojourner Truth.

Born Isabella Baumfree in 1791 in upstate New York, Sojourner Truth is one of the lasting icons of the dark ages of slavery and an important symbol of the resiliency of the human spirit.

A slave for more than 20 years, Baumfree escaped to freedom in 1826, a

year before the New York State Emancipation Act was passed. In 1843, Baumfree changed her name to Sojourner Truth, citing a religious awakening. For more than 40 years, Truth traveled the country preaching religious tolerance, pacifism and gender equality.

Sojourner Truth's lasting legacy is now being recognized in the form of a bust commissioned by Congress. Her image will grace Emancipation Hall, serving as a reminder of our capacity to change and our willingness to endure. I urge passage of this resolution to honor her history.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I am pleased to support this resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Visitor Center for the purpose of unveiling the bust of Sojourner Truth.

The ceremony will take place in Emancipation Hall, a site wholly appropriate for this remarkable woman who was born into slavery, emancipated and spent her adult life fighting for the rights of others.

In 1843, while in her mid-forties, she told her friends that she had been called by the Spirit. She changed her name to Sojourner Truth and embarked on a journey of activism. Upon her death more than 40 years later, Sojourner Truth traveled the country, preaching about abolition, women's suffrage and human rights.

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The inclusion of this work and the collection of arts and artifacts of the Capitol and the display of the bust in the Capitol Visitor Center fill the gap in the representation of historic Americans that contribute much to the betterment of this country.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the National Congress of Black Women, who generously offered this bust and pedestal as a donation to the collection of the United States Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), the author of the resolution.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, first let me thank the chairman of the House Administration Committee for his generosity and leadership, and we truly appreciate his being the epitome of the mayor of this great community. I thank the manager of this legislation as well.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, because sometimes when we reflect on history, if we do not tell the truth of history, it is lost. It gives me a great privilege to come and to acknowledge the origins and the story of the placing of So-

journer Truth, an abolitionist and a suffragette, in the halls of the United States Capitol. Born in 1797, passing in 1883, she was truly an historical figure, and she was a vision of Dr. C. Delores Tucker, the original president of the National Congress of Black Women.

The story begins, as we look in the early years of my coming to the United States Congress, of the women who were characterized and sculptured as suffragettes. In fact, when I came, the stone sculpture was in the basement of this place. It was the leadership of the Women's Caucus, CAROLYN MALONEY, then the Chair, and others who wanted to lift that stone women's sculpture that represented the women who had been suffragettes to a presence of respect. We joined in that, women of all walks of life and all ethnic and racial backgrounds. But we noticed one difference: The presence of Sojourner Truth was not there. That became the cause of C. Delores Tucker, the late president, the former Secretary of State of the National Congress of Black Women. So we worked and worked.

I offer my appreciation to the now Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI, who was sensitive to this and has helped us to hold this wonderful ceremony next week. I offer my appreciation to the former Chair of the House Administration Committee, the Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, and the many women who understood our plea to respect Sojourner Truth. I'm delighted to have carried the initial legislation and to have joined with my sisters in helping to propose the funding for this sculpture. We managed to do this in the short period of time that was given to us over a 2-year period and to recognize a woman that could be both a suffragette and an abolitionist. On this day, April 28, we will honor the idea of fighting for women's rights and the abolition of slavery, intertwined, a woman.

Might I also suggest to you that there is no African American woman sculpture in the entire body of this United States Capitol. There is one African American man, Dr. Martin Luther King, and a few pictures. We hope to see soon the statue of Rosa Parks. So we are making history on April 28, and, again, we are grateful for this.

Might I share with you the words of this young woman, Sojourner Truth, who explained what being a slave was all about. She was a powerful speaker. And she would tell listeners of how some slaves were kept cowed and afraid to act by beatings, sometimes with spikes, sticks, and chains. She, herself, as a teenager, had been taken into the barn by her master one afternoon for absolutely no reason and tied up by the wrists. Then he tore the shirt from her back and whipped her with a bundle of sticks until her back bled. In a voice contemporarily described as rich and deep, she described how she refused to give him the satisfaction of screaming