

that can override personal good sense in times of high emotion and turmoil.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HURD of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO ACT

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2420) to establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of the American Latino, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2420

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 "National Museum of the American Latino Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States is a symbol of democracy, freedom, and economic opportunity around the world, and the legacy of Latinos is deeply rooted in the very fabric of the history, democracy, freedom, and economic opportunity of the United States.

(2) There exists no national museum within the Smithsonian Institution that is devoted to the documentation and explication of Latino life, art, history, and culture.

(3) The establishment of the National Museum of the American Latino will be consistent with the purposes of the Smithsonian Institution, created by Congress in 1846, "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge".

(4) The National Museum of the American Latino—

(A) will be the keystone for people in the United States and other Smithsonian Institution visitors to learn about Latino contributions to life, art, history, and culture in the United States at its signature location on the National Mall; and

(B) will serve as a gateway for visitors to view other Latino exhibitions, collections, and programming at other Smithsonian Institution facilities and museums throughout the United States and the territories of the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) BOARD OF REGENTS.—The term "Board of Regents" means the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

(2) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—The term "Board of Trustees" means the Board of Trustees of the National Museum of the American Latino as established by section 5.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the National Museum of the American Latino.

(4) MUSEUM.—The term "Museum" means the National Museum of the American Latino established by section 4.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF MUSEUM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Smithsonian Institution a museum to be known as the "National Museum of the American Latino".

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Museum are—

(1) to illuminate the story of the United States for the benefit of all by featuring Latino contributions; and

(2) to provide for—

(A) the collection, study, research, publication, and establishment of exhibitions and programs relating to Latino life, art, history, and culture that encompass—

(i) Latino contributions to the early history of what now encompasses the United States of America and its territories;

(ii) Latino contributions in the armed services from the earliest days of the American Revolution to current military activities in defense of our freedoms;

(iii) Latino contributions to the freedom, well-being, and economic prosperity of all people in the United States through historical movements;

(iv) entrepreneurial and charitable activities of Latinos;

(v) contributions by Latinos to—

(I) the social, natural, and physical sciences; and

(II) art, history, and culture, including food, music, dance, film, theater, sports, and other forms of popular culture in the United States; and

(B) collaboration between the Museum, other museums and research centers of the Smithsonian Institution, and other museums and educational institutions throughout the United States and abroad, to promote the study and appreciation of Latino life, art, history, culture, and its impact on society in the United States, including collaboration concerning joint research projects, programs, exhibitions, collection management, and training of museum staff.

SEC. 5. BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Smithsonian Institution a Board of Trustees of the Museum with the duties, powers, and authority specified in this section.

(b) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Trustees—

(A) shall—

(i) make recommendations to the Board of Regents concerning the location, planning, design, and construction of the Museum;

(ii) recommend annual operating budgets for the Museum to the Board of Regents;

(iii) adopt bylaws for the Board of Trustees;

(iv) report annually to the Board of Regents on the acquisition, disposition, and

display of Latino collections, objects and artifacts, and on other appropriate matters; and

(v) advise and assist the Board of Regents on all matters relating to the administration, operation, maintenance, and preservation of the Museum, including long-term maintenance; and

(B) may delegate the duties described in clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A) to the Director.

(2) PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—Subject to the general policies of the Board of Regents, the Board of Trustees shall have the sole authority to—

(A) purchase, accept, borrow, or otherwise acquire artifacts and other objects for addition to the collections of the Museum;

(B) loan, exchange, sell, or otherwise dispose of any part of the collections of the Museum, with the proceeds of such transactions to be used for additions to the collections of the Museum; and

(C) specify criteria with respect to the use of the collections and resources of the Museum, including policies on programming, education, exhibitions, and research with respect to—

(i) the life, art, history, culture, and other aspects of Latinos in the United States and the territories of the United States;

(ii) the role of Latinos in the history of the United States from the arrival of the first explorers to the Americas to the present;

(iii) the contributions of Latinos to society and culture in the United States, and exploring what it means to be an American; and

(iv) sharing how values in the United States such as resiliency, optimism, and spirituality are reflected in Latino history and culture.

(3) OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.—Subject to the general policies of the Board of Regents, the Board of Trustees shall have authority to—

(A) provide for preservation, restoration, and maintenance of the collections of the Museum; and

(B) solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, and devises of personal and real property for the purpose of aiding and facilitating the work of the Museum.

(4) ENSURING DIVERSITY OF POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS IN EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMS.—In carrying out its duties, the Board of Trustees shall ensure that the exhibits and programs of the Museum reflect the diversity of the political viewpoints held by Latinos of the United States on the events and issues relating to the history of Latinos in the United States.

(c) COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Trustees shall be composed of not more than 19 voting members as provided under paragraph (2).

(2) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Board of Trustees shall include the following voting members:

(A) The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

(B) The Under Secretary of Museums and Research of the Smithsonian Institution.

(C) The chair of the Smithsonian National Latino Board.

(D) One member of the Board of Regents, appointed by the Board of Regents.

(E) Two Members of Congress, 1 from each political party, designated by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Conference.

(F) Thirteen individuals who shall be appointed by the Board of Regents after taking into consideration—

(i) efforts to have a politically and geographically diverse representation on the Board of Trustees reflecting States and territories with significant Latino populations;

(ii) individuals recommended by members of the Board of Trustees; and

(iii) individuals recommended by organizations and entities that are committed to the advancement of knowledge of Latino life, art, history, and culture.

(3) **INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.**—The Board of Regents shall make initial appointments to the Board of Trustees under paragraph (2) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) **TERMS OF SERVICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in this subsection, each appointed member of the Board of Trustees shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(2) **INITIAL APPOINTEES.**—As designated by the Board of Regents at the time of appointment, of the voting members first appointed under subparagraph (F) of subsection (c)(2)—

(A) Five members shall be appointed for a term of 1 year;

(B) Four members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

(C) Four members shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(3) **REAPPOINTMENT.**—A member of the Board of Trustees may be reappointed, except that no individual may serve on the Board of Trustees for a total of more than 2 full terms. For purposes of this paragraph, the number of terms an individual serves on the Board of Trustees shall not include any portion of a term for which an individual is appointed to fill a vacancy under paragraph (4)(B).

(4) **VACANCIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A vacancy on the Board of Trustees—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Board of Trustees; and

(ii) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(B) **TERM.**—Any member of the Board of Trustees appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of that term.

(e) **COMPENSATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a member of the Board of Trustees shall serve without pay.

(2) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—A member of the Board of Trustees shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Board of Trustees.

(f) **CHAIRPERSON.**—By a majority vote of its voting members, the Board of Trustees shall elect a chairperson from its members.

(g) **MEETINGS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Board of Trustees shall meet at the call of the chairperson or on the written request of a majority of the voting members of the Board of Trustees, but not fewer than twice each year.

(2) **MEETING FORMAT.**—Regularly scheduled meetings and special meetings may be conducted in-person, telephonically, electronically, or by any means appropriate as determined by the chairperson.

(h) **QUORUM.**—A majority of the voting members of the Board of Trustees holding office shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business, but a lesser number may receive information on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

SEC. 6. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF MUSEUM.

(a) **DIRECTOR.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Museum shall have a Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary in consultation with Board of Trustees.

The Secretary may appoint an interim Director to oversee the initial activity of establishing the Museum until a permanent Director is selected.

(2) **DUTIES.**—The Director shall manage the Museum subject to the policies of the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees.

(b) **STAFF.**—The Secretary may appoint 2 additional employees to serve under the Director, except that such additional employees may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service.

(c) **PAY.**—The employees appointed by the Secretary under subsection (b) may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

SEC. 7. EDUCATIONAL AND LIAISON PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED.**—The Director of the Museum may carry out educational and liaison programs in support of the goals of the Museum.

(2) **SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES.**—In carrying out this section, the Director shall—

(A) carry out educational programs relating to Latino life, art, history, and culture, including—

(i) programs using digital, electronic, and interactive technologies; and

(ii) programs carried out in collaboration with elementary schools, secondary schools, and postsecondary schools; and

(B) consult with the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services concerning the grant programs carried out under subsection (b).

(b) **GRANT PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, in consultation with the Board of Trustees and the Director of the Museum, shall establish and carry out—

(A) a grant program with the purpose of improving operations, care of collections, culturally appropriate public outreach, and development of professional management at American Latino museums;

(B) a grant program with the purpose of providing internship and fellowship opportunities at American Latino museums;

(C) a scholarship program, in partnership with Hispanic-serving institutions, minority-serving institutions, historically black colleges and universities, and other institutions of higher education, with the purpose of assisting individuals who are pursuing careers or carrying out studies in the arts, humanities, and sciences in the study of American Latino life, art, history, and culture;

(D) in cooperation with other museums, historical societies, and educational institutions, a grant program with the purpose of promoting the understanding of the Latin American diaspora in the United States; and

(E) a grant program under which an American Latino museum (including a nonprofit education organization the primary mission of which is to promote the study of the Latin American diaspora in the United States) may use funds provided under the grant to increase an endowment fund established by the museum (or organization) as of October 1, 2020, for the purposes of enhancing educational programming, and maintaining and operating traveling educational exhibits.

(2) **CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF MUSEUM.**—In this subsection, the term “American Latino museum” does not include the Museum.

(3) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Institute of Museum and Library Services to carry out this subsection—

(A) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

(B) such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022 and each succeeding fiscal year.

SEC. 8. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO BUILDING AND SUPPORT FACILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **LOCATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Board of Regents shall designate a site for the Museum.

(B) **SITES FOR CONSIDERATION.**—In designating a site under subparagraph (A), the Board of Regents shall select from among the following sites in the District of Columbia:

(i) The Arts and Industries Building of the Smithsonian Institution, located on the National Mall at 900 Jefferson Drive, Southwest, Washington, District of Columbia.

(ii) A vacant area bounded by Independence Avenue, Jefferson Drive, Raoul Wallenberg Place, and 14th Street Southwest, currently under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

(iii) The area bounded by 3rd Street and 1st Street, Northwest and Constitution Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, as measured from curb to curb, currently under the jurisdiction of the Architect of the Capitol.

(iv) The facility and grounds on the National Mall between 12th and 14th Streets, Southwest, and Jefferson Drive and Independence Avenue, Southwest, currently under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.

(v) Any other appropriate location as identified by the Board of Trustees or Board of Regents.

(C) **TRANSFER TO SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.**—Except with respect to a site described in clause (i) of subparagraph (B), if the site designated for the Museum is in an area that is under the administrative jurisdiction of another Federal entity, as soon as practicable after the date on which the designation is made, the head of the Federal entity shall transfer to the Smithsonian Institution administrative jurisdiction over the area selected for the site of the Museum.

(D) **CONSULTATION.**—The Board of Regents shall carry out its duties under this paragraph in consultation with the following:

(i) The Chair of the National Capital Planning Commission.

(ii) The Chair of the Commission of Fine Arts.

(iii) The Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission referred to in section 9.

(iv) The Chair of the Building and Site Subcommittee of the Commission referred to in section 9.

(v) The Chair and ranking minority member of each of the following Committees:

(I) The Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(II) The Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

(III) The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(IV) The Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(V) The Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(vi) The Architect of the Capitol.

(2) **SIZE OF BUILDING.**—The building constructed or modified to serve as the Museum shall occupy no less than the recommended square footage set forth in the report submitted by the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino established under section 333 of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (110 Public Law 229; 122 Stat. 784).

(3) CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING.—The Board of Regents, in consultation with the Board of Trustees and other appropriate Federal and local agencies is authorized to prepare plans, design, and construct a building or modify an existing building for the Museum, which shall be located at the site selected by the Board of Regents under this subsection.

(4) NONAPPLICABILITY OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO MONUMENTS, COMMEMORATIVE, AND OTHER WORKS ON THE NATIONAL MALL.—Chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code, shall not apply with respect to the Museum.

(b) COST SHARING.—The Board of Regents shall pay—

(1) 50 percent of the costs of carrying out this section from Federal funds; and

(2) 50 percent of the costs of carrying out this section from non-Federal sources.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 9. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMISSION.

In carrying out their duties under this Act, the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents shall take into consideration the reports and plans submitted by the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino established under section 333 of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (110 Public Law 229; 122 Stat. 784).

SEC. 10. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE.

Authority under this Act to enter into contracts or to make payments shall be effective in any fiscal year only to the extent provided in advance in an appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Smithsonian Institution to carry out this Act, other than sections 7(b) and 8—

(1) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

(2) such sums as are necessary for each fiscal year thereafter.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

(c) USE OF FUNDS FOR FUNDRAISING.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization under this section may be used to conduct fundraising in support of the Museum from private sources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2420.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this bill and the creation of the National Museum of the American Latino has traveled a long road, stretching back to 1994 and, legislatively, back to 2003, 17 years ago.

In 1994, the Smithsonian Institution Task Force on Latino Issues issued a report, titled, “Willful Neglect: The Smithsonian Institution and U.S. Latinos.” This report concluded that “because of both indigenous roots and Spanish heritage, Latinos predate the British in the Americas. They have contributed significantly to every phase and aspect of American history and culture. Yet the Smithsonian Institution almost entirely excludes and ignores Latinos in nearly every aspect of its operations.”

In 2003, our former colleague Representative Xavier Becerra introduced a bill to establish a Commission to Study the Potential Creation of the National Museum of the American Latino. Language establishing this Commission was finally enacted in 2008.

In 2011, the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of the National Museum of the American Latino issued its report. The Commission reported that “the time has come for the creation of the new museum on ‘The National Mall’ that ‘reflects the contributions of Latinos in every aspect of American history and culture.’”

Since then, our colleague, Representative JOSÉ SERRANO, has carried this legislation, and fought tirelessly to ensure American Latinos, our history, our culture, and our contributions to this Nation are recognized on The National Mall.

Representative SERRANO has spent a career championing the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans; first, in the New York State Assembly, where he served for 16 years, and then in the House, where he served for 30 years. He has educated us on everything from Puerto Rico to New York, to the story of American Latinos, to, yes, a little bit of Sinatra, too.

I remember a committee hearing last year, shortly after Representative SERRANO announced his retirement, where he told the committee: “If you want to give me a going away present that I will cherish forever, give me a museum.”

It is true that there are plans to open the Molina Family Latino Gallery at the American History Museum, which is a step in the right direction. But to once again quote Representative SERRANO: “No matter how hard we try, hundreds of years of history, art, and culture cannot be contained in one 4,500-square-foot exhibit. We deserve a dedicated museum of our own in the heart of Washington, D.C. We need a Latino Museum.”

Mr. SERRANO is right: We need a Latino Museum.

H.R. 2420 follows the plan for the creation of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. It would establish the position of director, as well as board of trustees, and follows the successful cost-sharing framework of the National Museum of African American History and Culture by providing for a 50/50 split between

Federal and non-Federal funds in constructing the museum and support facilities.

Let me remind my colleagues of the history of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened in 2016. This history stretches back to 1988, 28 long years. And it took 16 years since the legislation establishing the museum for the museum to open its doors.

Passage of this bill today is not the first step in realizing the creation of the National Museum of the American Latino, nor is it the final step, but it is an important milestone on a decades’-long journey and the culmination of years of effort and advocacy by Representative SERRANO, my Hispanic Caucus colleagues, and countless outside advocates.

The Latino community represents one-sixth of the American population. Latinos are an integral part of our history and culture and have been at the center of American progress for generations. And yet, study after study has shown that the story of this community within the broader scope of American history has not been told.

Passage of H.R. 2420 brings us closer to being able to tell this story, a story intertwined with the very history of our country. This is a story that deserves to be honored and recognized.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this H.R. 2420, and for my colleagues in the Senate to pass it quickly and send it to the President for his signature so that we can begin the journey of realizing this important addition to the story of all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, June 22, 2020.

HON. ZOE LOFGREN,
Chair, Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives, Washington DC.

DEAR CHAIR LOFGREN: In recognition of the goal of expediting consideration of H.R. 2420, the “National Museum of the American Latino Act,” the Committee on Natural Resources agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The Committee on Natural Resources takes this action with the mutual understanding that, in doing so, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Thank you for agreeing to include our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chair,
House Natural Resources Committee.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, June 22, 2020.
Hon. RAÚL GRIJALVA,
*Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRIJALVA: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2420, the National Museum of the American Latino Act. This bill was referred primarily to the Committee on House Administration, with additional referrals to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I recognize that this bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources. I appreciate your Committee's willingness to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2420 and acknowledge that this discharge is not a waiver of future jurisdictional claims by the Committee on Natural Resources over this subject matter and will not prejudice your Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees if this were to be necessary.

I would be pleased to include your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 2420.

Sincerely,

ZOE LOFGREN,
Chairperson.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 23, 2020.

Hon. ZOE LOFGREN,
*Chairperson, Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRPERSON LOFGREN: I write concerning H.R. 2420, the National Museum of the American Latino Act. There are certain provisions in this legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 2420, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure agrees to forgo action on the bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill would not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I also request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the committee report on H.R. 2420 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFazio,
Chair.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2020.

Hon. PETER A. DEFazio,
*Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN DEFazio: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2420, the National Museum of the American Latino Act. This bill was referred primarily to the Committee on House Administration, with additional referrals to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I recognize that this bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I appreciate your Committee's willingness to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2420 and acknowledge that this discharge is not a waiver of future jurisdictional claims by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over this subject matter and will not prejudice your Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees if this were to be necessary.

I would be pleased to include your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 2420.

Sincerely,

ZOE LOFGREN,
Chairperson.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, too, agree with my friend from California: Mr. SERRANO was right. This is something we need to do.

And I will probably catch some flack for it later from him, but I have to say Mr. AGUILAR is correct: We ought to do something to honor the Latino community that has made our country the greatest country in the history of the world.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the underlying legislation that would create the first Smithsonian museum honoring Latinos. Again, our country would not be what it is today without their contributions.

More than 18 percent of our population is Latino. Sixteen percent of the men and women serving in our military heroically are Latino. You don't have to look too far to see their contribution to the brave men and women in our police forces throughout this Nation. Also, every essential workforce that we see in America today is populated with hardworking American Latinos. I would also be remiss if I didn't mention, of course, a third of Major League Baseball players are Latino.

And, unfortunately, we are not going to get to see who would win the Congressional Baseball Game this year. I think it was our year; I truly do. And I do certainly miss being able to jaw with my good friends, Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. CÁRDENAS, while they came up to the plate while I was playing catcher in that game. And I will tell you, the Latino contribution to Congressional baseball has led to many more victories than I would have liked, because I would like to win again this year.

Earlier this year, the House Administration Committee had a hearing on the possibility of creating this museum to specifically honor Latinos. This was an important step that hasn't been done on other issues that we face in this Congress, because hearings give us an opportunity to ask important questions about the complexities of creating a world-class museum. And I am, again, glad Chairperson LOFGREN led the effort in getting this done.

At the hearing, we discussed the Smithsonian's current struggles in handling the maintenance of their nu-

merous facilities. In fact, Chairperson LOFGREN and I sent a letter last fall to appropriators asking for robust funding to address the Smithsonian's current maintenance and repair needs, which have now reached nearly \$1 billion.

The lack of upkeep has led to damaged collections and building closures. It is concerning to me to hear how much the Smithsonian is struggling to take care of their current facilities, not to mention the possibility of creating new ones.

This brings me to another concern: the cost of a new museum. And the most recent Smithsonian museum constructed, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, truly a work of art and history, cost \$555 million. That was nearly \$200 million more than the Commission estimated.

Given the current billion-dollar backlog, costs are always important to consider, particularly as we envision what museums will look like in a post-pandemic America. I bring these costs up, not to say this is an impossible task ahead of us; it is to make sure that we learn from the mistakes of the previous cultural giants like the last museum that was built. As we look at the contributions of Latinos, we need to be realistic about the current restraints of the Smithsonian.

Additionally, I am glad this legislation includes a provision requiring all political viewpoints to be represented, because I believe it is important we respect our diversity and all cultures throughout the Smithsonian. No Smithsonian, no museum in America, should put a political litmus test on what Americans get to learn from. This is what makes our country great.

Madam Speaker, I hope the Smithsonian Institute takes my concerns seriously as this great initiative moves forward, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS), a strong supporter of the legislation.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I also yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, it is unusual, but look at this bipartisan effort together here. This is an amazing moment.

As mentioned, our colleague, José SERRANO, has been a champion on this cause for many years, and I miss him dearly, and I look forward to seeing him very, very soon.

There are more than 58 million reasons why we need a National Museum of the American Latino:

Since the founding of our great Nation, Latinos have been largely invisible and excluded from the history books.

Our community has been used as scapegoats for the problems America faces.

We are looked at as "others," and have been made to feel like outsiders in our own country.

□ 1015

The root of this problem stems from a lack of knowledge of and appreciation for Latino contributions to America's success.

Now, more than ever, when Latinos are being vilified and spoken of as "less than," the American people deserve to learn the truth of our history and our heritage. The American Latino Museum is essential to sharing the stories and the journey of Latinos in America. From America's original sin of Native American genocide, the American Civil War, and through the civil rights movement, to the horrors of the deadly El Paso shooting, where 23 people were killed at the hands of a murderer who drove hundreds of miles with the sole intent of killing as many Mexicans as possible; we must teach our entire history, the beautiful, the glorious, and the horrors and the injustices. Our story is the story of the United States of America.

If we truly want to build a country that works for everyone, we must start by including everyone. We owe it to ourselves and our children to learn about Latino history in America. That is exactly what museums are for: To teach and inspire. And for years, I, along with Congressmembers SERRANO, HURD, SÁNCHEZ, ROYBAL-ALLARD, AGUILAR and many others have worked tirelessly to gain bipartisan support in finally establishing a Latino Museum. We understand its symbolic and historical significance for our country.

Latinos make up 17 percent—more than 58 million people—of the United States population, and they are the largest and fastest growing ethnic group in America. Hispanic Americans contribute more than \$2.3 trillion to the United States economy every year. That GDP would make itself a country of the eighth largest economy in the world. People like my brother-in-law who was born in Mexico, served in the United States Army, and was shot and wounded while fighting for our country in Vietnam. His story deserves to be heard. Today, there are more than 200,000 Hispanic Active-Duty servicemembers serving in the United States Armed Forces. Sixty Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Our story is America's story, and Latino history is American history. Latino leaders were key players during the U.S. civil rights movement. Historical movements like the Chicano civil rights and labor movements, which included some of the largest student walkouts in American history, are not taught in our classrooms. Americans like Dolores Huerta, who was beaten within an inch of her life, and Navy veteran Cesar Chavez, have been instrumental in securing American workers' rights. In the face of relentless brutality and adversity, Huerta and

Chavez remained committed to non-violence while fighting for farmworkers' rights, workers who were maimed or died while working in the fields and cast aside like forgotten fruit by farmowners. Dolores and Cesar prevailed by establishing the first farmworkers union in the United States, forever changing the course of this Nation for the better.

There are countless stories of American Latinos; stories of perseverance, dedication, and beating the odds to achieve their dreams; like the story of my friend and astronaut Jose Hernandez. Jose grew up in a poor farmworker family. As a child, he would work in the fields before sunrise and look up at the stars, dreaming of going to space. Jose followed that dream through his college career as a scientist and engineer. His journey took him from the fields of California as a farmworker to the NASA space program. Jose applied to the NASA space program 13 times, to be rejected 12 times. After his thirteenth attempt, he was finally accepted into the program and fulfilled his childhood dream, becoming the first astronaut to communicate back to Earth in Spanish from space. Jose's story is a story of perseverance, dedication, and unshakeable will. Jose's inspiring story deserves to be heard and shared so that every child, regardless of race or personal circumstances, can achieve his or her dreams. Like little Joaquin, or Jimena, or little Sky, or little Sage; they deserve those inspirations to see somebody who looks like them achieve their dreams.

A National Latino Museum is a fitting and appropriate way for all Americans to celebrate and learn the truth about how Latinos have contributed to our great country; to honor Latinos who are on the frontlines and who, literally, gave their lives in service of our Nation. A Smithsonian museum dedicated to Latino history and culture would educate the American public on the stories of American Latinos that are excluded from our museums, schools, and history books.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, it is time we establish a national museum devoted to American Latino history and culture. We are a great Nation, but this Nation is incomplete without giving the honor and respect that every single community deserves.

I thank my colleagues for this opportunity to share this beautiful moment with all of America so that we can make this museum real.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER), the Latino leader in the Republican Conference and the ranking member of the Sub-

committee on Legislative Branch Appropriations.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today in support of the National Museum of the American Latino Act.

The National Mall is the most-visited national park, with over 25 million visitors each year. It is nicknamed "America's front yard." It is a testament to the accomplishments, history, and diversity of the people that make up these United States of America.

However, there are almost 60 million Americans whose stories, contributions, and traditions do not have a platform or a spotlight here. Millions of us, both Mexican Americans like me, and people of other heritages, value those contributions to our Union and want to see that platform become part of our country's message.

Let me say, I so believe this spotlight needs to happen, in part, because my generation of Hispanics, we didn't have the Spanish language passed on to us, in part, because it wasn't popular to tout that. Now, more than ever, most of us have had to learn it through things like wonderful products, or in college, or in high school, which is awesome; but I want to see that pride of passing that language down and preserving the culture, as it is an American culture; and what better opportunity would we have than to highlight it here in America's front yard.

The story of the American Latino is woven into the fabric of this Nation. Latinos have fought in every U.S. war since the American Revolution and settled in parts of the United States before the arrival of Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock.

Latinos are a crucial part of the American identity. There are those of us who have explored space, like astronaut Ellen Ochoa. We've brought innovation to the world, like inventor Elena Medo. We have done things that few other athletes in the world could do, like baseball legend Edgar Martinez of my home State in Washington, the Seattle Mariners. And I am proud to note personally that we have helped shape our Nation's laws by serving in Congress.

I have had the amazing opportunity to be the first and only Hispanic Member of Congress, House or Senate, to have served from Washington State. I would like to highlight that it was my predominantly White, smaller corner of what I will call the best part of the Pacific Northwest that bestowed upon me this amazing honor.

Hispanic Americans represent the heart of the American Dream: Strong family values, amazing work ethic, strong faith in community and in civics. My first or second term here I remember walking down the National Mall and seeing a protest, and it was a very peaceful protest, unlike some that I have seen. It was families, and they were walking side-by-side, and they

were wrapping themselves in the American flag. To me, they represent the best of us.

I look forward to visiting the National Museum of the American Latino and sharing these stories with my children, these American stories.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this legislation.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), a key advocate and champion of this legislation, and chairman of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to give me an opportunity to speak on behalf of H.R. 2420, legislation introduced by our esteemed friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), a pioneer and a powerful advocate for Latino people in his time in this Congress. And the whole Nation, all Americans have benefited from his work, and we are all grateful for what he has done for many people in this country.

I have a brief story. You will hear a lot about the statistical importance and the history that needs to be told, but I have a brief story. You know, I am a first-generation American citizen. My parents migrated and immigrated into this country with the distinct goal of giving their kids a chance. And to that end, they did. But, see, my story is not unique, nor is it, for that matter, extraordinary. It is the story that binds all the diversity of Latinos together, a shared experience and a shared demand for respect, fairness, and to be treated as equals.

The Latino Museum, this vote, comes at a time of forced divisions in this country, attempts to demonize and marginalize Latinos by the highest voice in this land. Our American history and identity are also Latino history and identity and, through this history, the United States exists.

Latino history, like American history, is ongoing, it is evolving, but to tell the full stories, the scars, the current wounds, the changes, the unsung leaders in all arenas, with that story also comes hope. And today and tomorrow, as we honor our great friend and leader and beacon, John Lewis, here at the Capitol, for being the person that he was, and a great American—you know, my proudest moment and privilege was to be arrested with him in a civil disobedience protest on behalf of immigrants, DACA recipients, and their families.

So today, we are voting for 2420, and we are saying “yes” to the Latino Museum, but I think, more importantly, this “yes” vote by Congress is also a vote that extends respect, provides acknowledgment, provides equity, and begins to tell the story of all Americans in this country.

Madam Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on this legislation.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to

the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD), my good friend, a gentleman who has been leading on Latino issues in our Republican Conference, and someone who bravely served our country in the CIA, but also, will be greatly missed in this institution.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Latinos became the largest ethnic group in the United States in 2008 and, well before 2060, will make up 25 percent of the American population. In spite of their essential relevance to our country's intellectual and cultural life, the task force that the gentleman from California spoke about that was commissioned in 1994 by the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution found that, “U.S. Latinos and Latinas are the only major contributor to American civilization still uncelebrated by any specific, systemic, permanent effort in this country's major cultural institution.” We are rectifying this situation today.

The National Mall is America's front yard, and it draws millions of visitors every year to some of the best museums and monuments that honor our most revered citizens. Half of all Americans will visit the National Mall in their lifetime, but there is nothing to the American Latino. To fully understand American history, we need a museum for the American Latino and Latina.

Historian Dr. Peter Stearns has said: “History helps us understand people and societies, helps us understand change and how the society we live in came to be. History contributes to moral understanding, provides identity, and studying it is essential for good citizenship.” At a time of intense public debate about whitewashing history, we should jump at the chance to collect, present, and protect in one place artifacts, stories, and collections that reflect our entire history.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture had one million visitors in its first 4 months. If this is any indication of the potential success for a museum of the American Latino, this investment will be well worth it.

Many incredible people have fought to bring to life the idea of a national museum for the American Latino.

Robert McCormick Adams, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, commissioned the 1994 task force.

Raul Yzaguirre chaired the task force, with his vice chair Mari Carmen, and they have been fighting for this museum for 25 years.

In 2004, my friend and former colleague, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, along with another former colleague, Xavier Becerra, first introduced legislation to establish the museum.

Henry Munoz, a fellow San Antonian, served faithfully as chairman for the National Museum of the American Latino Commission with his vice chair, Susan Gonzales from California. They authored a report on how to achieve this vision.

And another organization critical to the success of this initiative, Friends of the American Latino, whose chair, Danny Vargas, vice chair, Ivette Fernandez, and CEO, Estuardo Rodriguez, have toiled to make this a reality.

Today, Congress gets to fulfill the work of these folks and many more. If we want to understand this experiment we call America, then we must understand ourselves, and we can't do that unless we understand all of our Nation's history.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this landmark piece of legislation. I am proud to associate my name with Ranking Member DAVIS, who has been a champion of this, to see this go to fruition, and the distinguished gentlemen from California (Mr. AGUILAR), my good friend, and the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS), and, of course, the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

□ 1030

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader of our Caucus and an incredible advocate and supporter for years of this piece of legislation.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I join my colleague, Mr. AGUILAR, and I thank him and Mr. DAVIS for bringing this to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I echo but I will not repeat all the words of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD), who has been a real leader in this House. I thank him for his remarks and his acknowledgment of the importance of the Latina and Latino population to our country and the contributions they have made.

Madam Speaker, I want to rise and thank Representative SERRANO and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for leading this effort.

As the Speaker knows, Mr. SERRANO is one of my closest friends. The dean of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus has been one of the most effective and hardworking Members of this House, and he will be missed next year when he retires after 30 years representing New Yorkers. He has been and will continue to be a dear, dear friend.

This is also a very meaningful day for all the members of the Hispanic Caucus, including our colleague and friend, Representative LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, whose father, Ed Roybal, was a dear friend of mine and on whose committee I served, and who was the founder of the caucus, with others. It started with five members in 1976. Today, it has 38 members.

I am proud to join Representative SERRANO and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus on this bill and bring it to the floor today.

For more than 500 years, half a millennium, Latinos have been a part of our American story. Through medicine, education, innovation, public service, the military, athletics, and the arts,

Latinos and Latinas have strengthened our economy, enriched our heritage, and have made America a safer and more prosperous Nation.

The story of America is incomplete without the story of the American Latino.

That is why a national museum of the American Latino is so critical and appropriate. I know that it will be a wonderful addition to the Smithsonian Institution and our National Mall.

At a time, Madam Speaker, when many people, including in our government at the highest levels, denigrate, discriminate, and target Latinos, we need this museum to recognize the service and the extraordinary assets that the Latino community has brought to America.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in supporting this bill, as I believe they will.

I look forward to the day when we can walk through the doors of the Smithsonian's newest museum and experience the full richness and diversity of Latino cultures and how they have helped to make America great.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I would inquire how much time remains on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR) has 8½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA).

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. AGUILAR and Ranking Member DAVIS for their work in bringing this bill to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Museum of the American Latino Act, this bipartisan legislation that would establish a new museum at the Smithsonian to share the Latino American experience, not just with the Nation, but with the world, an experience that we know all too well in my district on the central coast of California, an experience that has not been told enough, but one this country is somewhat familiar with, sacrificing so much to come to this country to give their children better lives, living the American Dream, but by doing so, contributing so much, not just to their families, but to our culture, to our economy, and, of course, our communities.

By fighting for security abroad in all American wars, to fighting for dignity at home in the grape wars, to influencing our arts, our agriculture, our sciences, and sports, the contributions Latinos have made to American culture and history are innumerable and must always be told.

I say this not just because it is deserved; I say this because Latino history is our history. That is why the Latino experience should be captured,

portrayed, and highlighted in our Nation's museum at the Smithsonian.

I look forward to voting on this bipartisan bill and watching this pass on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA).

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, first, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR), and all those founding mothers and fathers who, many years ago, thought about this museum and how important it would be to add to the fabric of our country in our own backyard, an American Latino museum.

I stand here today, proudly, because I still remember in 2014 hosting a reception for the museum to try to raise money, to try to raise awareness, to make sure that people understood why it was so needed.

So, I stand proudly today to support this bill, because, as Latinos, 60 million strong and growing, we have a place to be, and that is in the museum.

Latinos contribute billions to our economy and are starting more small businesses than any group, and during this pandemic, we have worked essential jobs that have kept our country moving forward.

It is time for Latinos to see our contributions, our culture, and our history reflected in all institutions, including the Smithsonian museums.

More importantly, it is time for our children to come to a museum and see the stories of their own heritage, their own culture, and their own language.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to support this very important bill.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Latino history is American history. Nuestra historia es historia Americana.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a member of the Judiciary Committee and a key advocate for civil rights.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlemen for allowing me the privilege of joining my brothers and sisters in the Hispanic Caucus for really a moment of history in this historic legislation authored by our dear friend, Congressman SERRANO from New York, the National Museum of the American Latino Act.

Madam Speaker, I have watched Congressman SERRANO for all the years that he has served, and I do want to take this moment to say what an honor to have been able to serve with him.

He walked among giants as a civil rights activist in this Congress. You could always count on his voice for upholding civil rights and justice, and his leadership on the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee is well evident. I thank him again for his leadership.

In the opening findings of this legislation, it says: "The United States is a symbol of democracy, freedom, and economic opportunity around the world, and the legacy of Latinos is deeply rooted in the very fabric of the history, democracy, freedom, and economic opportunity of the United States."

It is long overdue for our memory to be able to reflect that that is true across this Nation.

I have had the privilege in Texas to count as some very dear friends the entire Hispanic-Latin community, and it is in their name so many heroes and sheroes in our community walked alongside so many of us for justice of any kind.

I have had the privilege of going with members of the Hispanic Caucus to fight against the devastation and dastardly acts of children in cages and human beings in cages and disrespecting those who would want to be equal in this Nation.

In addition, I have seen the soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan who wore the uniform whose family members were yet not citizens of the United States.

I fight along with my brothers and sisters against the dastardly act of this administration to not count undocumented persons.

We know that this Nation was formed in the Constitution by the words to "form a more perfect Union."

How do you have a perfect Union without the historic recognition of the Latino community and how they built the pillars of this Nation?

Let me say how exciting it will be for children and others to be able to come there.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for this legislation having scholarship opportunities for African Americans, Hispanics, and others to do their work in the arts.

I want to conclude my remarks by highlighting the respect and friendship of Caesar Chavez and Dr. Martin Luther King. I do that in the recognition of my good friend Dolores Huerta, as well, who was mentioned previously. What a fighter for justice. What a traditional mother, if you will, in her fight and embracing the fight. She never gave up and never gave in.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the additional time.

These words are from Dr. Martin Luther King: "I am deeply moved by your

courage in fasting as your personal sacrifice for justice through nonviolence. Your past and present commitment is eloquent testimony to the constructive power of nonviolent action and the destructive impotence of violent reprisal. You stand today as a living example of the Gandhian tradition with its great force for social progress."

They never met, but I honor both of them, and I honor this museum.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlemen for giving me the opportunity to speak, and I ask for support of the legislation.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS).

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Museum of the American Latino Act.

The Latino community has and continues to play a pivotal role in the growth and success of the United States. For hundreds of years, Latinos have been at the forefront of the fight for justice, equality, and opportunity, breaking barriers and advancing rights for all Americans.

In Orange County, in the 1940s, five Mexican-American families challenged school segregation. In the landmark case of *Mendez v. Westminster*, they paved the way for desegregating schools in California. It influenced the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling 7 years later.

People should know this story. From education to science and politics to art, Latinos and Latinas have been pioneers, leaders, innovators, and game changers. Latino history is American history.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Representative SERRANO for championing this cause. It deserves a place on The National Mall.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of the National Museum of the American Latino Act.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR), another strong advocate of the legislation.

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I also rise in support of H.R. 2420 for several reasons.

If you look at the impact of the Hispanic culture here in the United States, all you have to do is go back. The first language that was ever spoken in the United States, a European language, was Spanish.

The first settlement in the United States was St. Augustine, Florida.

And if you look at the impact that the Spanish culture has had on the U.S., all you have to do is look at the State symbols like the State coats of

arms, seals, and flags, and you will see that the coats of arms and the flags of Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Montana, New Mexico, Texas, Puerto Rico, Los Angeles, Santa Fe, St. Louis, San Diego, Baton Rouge, Riverside, Pensacola, Cupertino, and St. Augustine all have the symbol.

Finally, let me just say this as I close. Even the U.S. dollar has had an impact. When the Spanish explorers developed settlements in the United States, they brought along the trading coins, or Spanish dollars, that were used regularly by the people in that region.

□ 1045

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Texas an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, in 1775, the Spanish dollar was announced as the first currency with legal use in the United States, and this was approved by the Continental Congress, suggested by Thomas Jefferson.

The design of the American dollar in 1792 was based off its Spanish counterpart. All you have to do is look at the dollar sign, and you will see the Spanish influence.

Again, the Spanish culture has had an influence, and I certainly ask all Members to support this legislation.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to support this legislation—long overdue.

I want to say to Congressman SERRANO how I have witnessed his persistence and his commitment, and I want to thank the gentleman so much for finally getting this bill to the floor and making it a bipartisan bill.

I was born and raised, of course, in El Paso, Texas, and the wonderful history of our Latino community finally now, as a result of this bill, will be brought forth for the American public and really for the public and for the world to see and recognize and lift up.

Madam Speaker, I just want to say to Congressman SERRANO, and to all of those who are supporting this, that the beauty of diversity in this country is what makes America America. This is another step toward achieving that perfect Union. All of our young people, everyone throughout the world, need to understand the history and the heritage of the Latino community.

To think that it is going to be now part of the Smithsonian on The Mall is just really exciting, and I hope we pass this today in a bipartisan way.

I want to thank all of you and thank Congressman SERRANO for giving us the privilege to support such a historic effort.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to begin by thanking Congressman SERRANO for his persistent leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation in a very strong bipartisan vote.

It is important we celebrate and understand the history of the Latino community in this country and the contributions they have made since the very beginning of this country and continue to make today.

I come from a State, the State of Rhode Island, where a very diverse and vibrant Latino community has made an extraordinary difference in the State of Rhode Island. We have leaders from the Latino community in business, in the arts, in politics, and in education. We have been blessed in so many ways by the extraordinary contributions of Latinos in Rhode Island and all throughout our country.

This is a wonderful way to celebrate that history and honor this great community. I urge everyone to support the bill.

Muchisimas gracias a todos.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to be here to support this project; it is an honor to be able to stand here with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle; and it is an honor to give as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD), my good friend, so that he can close out this debate on our side.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, at a time with incredibly divisive politics, we are showing that we can actually come together for the betterment of our society as a whole.

The fact that there have been folks from well over a quarter of a century fighting and toiling to make this a reality is an example for all of us. And the fact that everybody here today in this Chamber has an opportunity to play a small part in that is quite exciting.

I think, 10 years from now, when there is a 6-year-old kid walking in the new Smithsonian museum for the American Latino, and they see something about PETE AGUILAR, it is going to be an exciting opportunity for me in the future, and I am glad to play a small part.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote "aye" on this landmark piece of legislation.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I certainly hope that that exhibit honoring PETE AGUILAR is not because of winning the Congressional Baseball Game, but I would be glad to see any exhibit honoring many of our colleagues who have served, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member for his support of this legislation, and the gentleman from Texas, who never misses an opportunity to give shout-outs to San Antonio and the individuals associated with this who are from San Antonio.

I should also thank Chairwoman ZOE LOFGREN from the House Administration Committee, who worked with Mr. DAVIS and who guided this legislation through the committee so we can have an opportunity to vote on it.

This is truly a bipartisan piece of legislation, and I tip my hat to Mr. HURD and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER for whipping votes and getting some colleagues to be supportive as well and, as Mr. HURD mentioned, the Friends of the American Latino Museum, an outside group that has been supportive of this legislation in a key way and stands ready to work with us to accomplish this mission.

As my colleagues have said, the time is now. It is important to pass this piece of legislation. It is important to start this process and to recognize the rich contributions that Latinos have made to American history.

Madam Speaker, once again, I would just like to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2420, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2420, as amended.

H.R. 2420 would establish the National Museum of the American Latino in the Smithsonian Institution and begin the process of bringing bricks and mortar reality to the dream of having a museum dedicated to telling another part of the American story.

The genesis of this museum dates to 1994 and a Smithsonian task force report titled "Willful Neglect: The Smithsonian Institution and U.S. Latinos." This report found a serious underrepresentation of Latinos and their contributions to our history at the Smithsonian.

In 2008 a commission was established to study the need for a museum. In 2011, the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of the National Museum of the American Latino issued its report. The Commission reported that "the time has come for the creation of a new museum on the National Mall" that "reflects the contributions of Latinos to every aspect of American History and Culture."

In February, I was pleased to chair a hearing examining this and other opportunities for growth at the Smithsonian. At that hearing, our colleague and sponsor of this legislation, Representative JOSE SERRANO testified that "Latinos have left an indelible mark on our nation's history and helped shape it in ways that most Americans, and even many in our own community, are unaware. We have served in every war since the American Revolution, fighting bravely and paying a heavy price on behalf of our Nation. We write award-winning Broadway plays and films. We are sports heroes and legends. We have been on the frontlines of the fights for civil rights. We have shaped the music we all dance to, the food we eat, and countless other staples of American life."

But Latino art and history is noticeably absent from recognition in many cultural institutions across the Nation, including the Smithsonian. To deny the telling of these stories not only does a disservice to our contributions and sacrifices, but also renders American history incomplete. There is no doubt that without the significant contributions of Latinos, the country we know today would be much different."

Passage of the measure before us is just the next step in this journey. But it is a critical

one. I will remind my colleagues that these projects, even once authorized, take many years to complete. The legislation authorizing the National Museum of African American History and Culture was enacted in 2003, and that wonderful museum opened its doors in 2016.

At the hearing in February I noted that I represent San Jose and Santa Clara county. San Jose is home to northern California's largest Mexican American community. For years, I have seen firsthand how this community, and all of the communities in my district embody the American experience, and the stories that each tell make the story of America richer and more complete.

Later today we will say honor the life of our colleague, the late Representative John Lewis. At the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, John said "We are one people; we are only family. We are all living in the same house—not just the American house but the world house. And when we finally accept these truths, then we will be able to fulfill Dr. King's dream to build a beloved community, a nation, and a world at peace with itself."

Telling the stories of Latino Americans is necessary part of building a beloved community.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2420 and take the next step in this important journey.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2420, the National Museum of the American Latino Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation that will help elevate and promote the stories of the Latino community in the United States.

The Latino community represents over one-sixth of the American population. Their contributions to the history of the United States throughout the centuries has been both significant and fundamental. Whether it be through their advancements to American innovation, to serving faithfully and heroically in every American war, the Latino and Latina population has always been steadfast in their commitment to the United States and its values.

Since my appointment to the Smithsonian Board of Regents in 2019, I have continued to voice my strong support for this legislation, and I am proud the Latino community is one step closer to finally having their legacy forever enshrined on the National Mall.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Congressman SERRANO and Congressman HURD on their tireless work advancing this legislation, and I urge all my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 2420.

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2420, the National Museum of the American Latino Act. This legislation would establish a National Museum of the American Latino within the Smithsonian Institution on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. dedicated to celebrating the significant historical, cultural, and artistic contributions of Latinos in the United States.

With a population of more than 60 million, Latinos are the largest minority ethnic group in the United States and the territories. They have accounted for nearly half of the Nation's population growth since 2010. However, Latinos continue facing systemic underrepresentation in the halls of Congress, Hollywood, academia, corporate America, and nearly every aspect of American life. This disparity also exists within our nation's cultural institutions, including the Smithsonian.

We must not forget that Latinos were here before the founding of our country. They have fought in every American war since the Revolution. They have also been at the forefront of every historical moment that has helped shape our way of life, from the fight for labor rights to the fight for gay rights. These stories are nearly absent from our textbooks and classrooms, but they are essential to learning who we are as a Nation. Simply put, Latino history is American history.

It has been 26 years since the Smithsonian acknowledged its own lack of Latino representation with their 1994 report, *Willful Neglect*.

It has been 17 years since former Representatives Xavier Becerra of California and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida introduced the first bill to create a commission to study the potential creation of a Latino Museum and 12 years since it became law.

It has been more than eight years since the 23-member National Museum of the American Latino Commission presented a detailed plan to President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress laying out the blueprint to get us there.

We cannot wait any longer. It is time for Congress to act.

Latinos deserve a dedicated space in the heart of Washington, D.C. where our experiences can be shared with the world. Today, we finally begin the process of setting that plan into motion.

I am proud to have led this effort in the House of Representatives during the 116th Congress and my final term in office, along with my colleague WILL HURD of Texas. This was a true team effort.

I also want to thank my colleagues from California, TONY CÁRDENAS and PETE AGUILAR, for their tremendous efforts. From building record support with 295 bipartisan cosponsors to leading today's debate on the House floor.

I want to thank Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chairman JOAQUIN CASTRO and all my colleagues with the CHC for their steadfast support of this project from the very beginning.

I want to thank Natural Resources Committee Chairman RAÚL GRIJALVA, Ranking Member DON YOUNG, and Subcommittee Chair DEB HAALAND for their leadership in holding the first legislative hearing on the bill last October.

I want to thank House Administration Chairperson ZOE LOFGREN and Ranking Member RODNEY DAVIS for favorably reporting the bill out of committee.

Finally, I would especially like to thank Speaker NANCY PELOSI and Majority Leader STENY HOYER for their commitment in bringing this bill before the full House of Representatives for a vote today.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2420 and help get us one step closer to turning this dream into a reality.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2420, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MEN AND BOYS ACT

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2163) to establish the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, to study and make recommendations to address social problems affecting Black men and boys, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2163

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 “Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act”.

SEC. 2. COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys (hereinafter in this Act referred to as “the Commission”) is established within the United States Commission on Civil Rights Office of the Staff Director.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Commission shall consist of 19 members appointed as follows:

(1) The Senate majority leader shall appoint one member who is not employed by the Federal Government and is an expert on issues affecting Black men and boys in America.

(2) The Senate minority leader shall appoint one member who is not employed by the Federal Government and is an expert on issues affecting Black men and boys in America.

(3) The House of Representatives majority leader shall appoint one member who is not employed by the Federal Government and is an expert on issues affecting Black men and boys in America.

(4) The House of Representatives minority leader shall appoint one member who is not employed by the Federal Government and is an expert on issues affecting Black men and boys in America.

(5) The Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus shall be a member of the Commission, as well as 5 additional Members of the Congressional Black Caucus who shall be individuals that either sit on the following committees of relevant jurisdiction or are experts on issues affecting Black men and boys in the United States, including—

- (A) education;
- (B) justice and Civil Rights;
- (C) healthcare;
- (D) labor and employment; and
- (E) housing.

(6) The Staff Director of the United States Commission on Civil Rights shall appoint one member from within the staff of the United States Commission on Civil Rights who is an expert in issues relating to Black men and boys.

(7) The Chair of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission shall appoint one member from within the staff of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission who is an expert in equal employment issues impacting Black men.

(8) The Secretary of Education shall appoint one member from within the Department of Education who is an expert in urban education.

(9) The Attorney General shall appoint one member from within the Department of Justice who is an expert in racial disparities within the criminal justice system.

(10) The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall appoint one member from

within the Department of Health and Human Services who is an expert in health issues facing Black men.

(11) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall appoint one member from within the Department of Housing and Urban Development who is an expert in housing and development in urban communities.

(12) The Secretary of Labor shall appoint one member from within the Department of Labor who is an expert in labor issues impacting Black men.

(13) The President of the United States shall appoint 2 members who are not employed by the Federal Government and are experts on issues affecting Black men and boys in America.

(c) **MEMBERSHIP BY POLITICAL PARTY.**—If after the Commission is appointed there is a partisan imbalance of Commission members, the congressional leaders of the political party with fewer members on the Commission shall jointly name additional members to create partisan parity on the Commission.

SEC. 3. OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO APPOINTMENT; REMOVAL.

(a) **TIMING OF INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.**—Each initial appointment to the Commission shall be made no later than 90 days after the Commission is established. If any appointing authorities fail to appoint a member to the Commission, their appointment shall be made by the Staff Director of the Commission on Civil Rights.

(b) **TERMS.**—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the term of a member of the Commission shall be 4 years. For the purpose of providing staggered terms, the first term of those members initially appointed under paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 2 shall be appointed to 2-year terms with all other terms lasting 4 years. Members are eligible for consecutive reappointment.

(c) **REMOVAL.**—A member of the Commission may be removed from the Commission at any time by the appointing authority should the member fail to meet Commission responsibilities. Once the seat becomes vacant, the appointing authority is responsible for filling the vacancy in the Commission before the next meeting.

(d) **VACANCIES.**—The appointing authority of a member of the Commission shall either reappoint that member at the end of that member's term or appoint another person meeting the qualifications for that appointment. In the event of a vacancy arising during a term, the appointing authority shall, before the next meeting of the Commission, appoint a replacement to finish that term.

SEC. 4. LEADERSHIP ELECTION.

At the first meeting of the Commission each year, the members shall elect a Chair and a Secretary. A vacancy in the Chair or Secretary shall be filled by vote of the remaining members. The Chair and Secretary are eligible for consecutive reappointment.

SEC. 5. COMMISSION DUTIES AND POWERS.

(a) **STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall conduct a systematic study of the conditions affecting Black men and boys, including homicide rates, arrest and incarceration rates, poverty, violence, fatherhood, mentorship, drug abuse, death rates, disparate income and wealth levels, school performance in all grade levels including post-secondary education and college, and health issues.

(2) **TRENDS.**—The Commission shall document trends regarding the topics described in paragraph (1) and report on the community impacts of relevant government programs within the scope of such topics.

(b) **PROPOSAL OF MEASURES.**—The Commission shall propose measures to alleviate and remedy the underlying causes of the condi-

tions described in subsection (a), which may include recommendations of changes to the law, recommendations for how to implement related policies, and recommendations for how to create, develop, or improve upon government programs.

(c) **SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS.**—The Commission shall accept suggestions or comments pertinent to the applicable issues from members of Congress, governmental agencies, public and private organizations, and private citizens.

(d) **STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**—The Office of the Staff Director of the United States Commission on Civil Rights shall provide staff and administrative support to the Commission. All entities of the United States Government shall provide information that is otherwise a public record at the request of the Commission.

SEC. 6. COMMISSION MEETING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **FIRST MEETING.**—The first meeting of the Commission shall take place no later than 30 days after the initial members are all appointed. Meetings shall be focused on significant issues impacting Black men and boys, for the purpose of initiating research ideas and delegating research tasks to Commission members to initiate the first annual report described in section 7.

(b) **QUARTERLY MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet quarterly. In addition to all quarterly meetings, the Commission shall meet at other times at the call of the Chair or as determined by a majority of Commission members.

(c) **QUORUM; RULE FOR VOTING ON FINAL ACTIONS.**—A majority of the members of the Commission constitute a quorum, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present is required for final action.

(d) **EXPECTATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS.**—Members are expected to attend all Commission meetings. In the case of an absence, members are expected to report to the Chair prior to the meeting and allowance may be made for an absent member to participate remotely. Members will still be responsible for fulfilling prior commitments, regardless of attendance status. If a member is absent twice in a given year, he or she will be reviewed by the Chair and appointing authority and further action will be considered, including removal and replacement on the Commission.

(e) **MINUTES.**—Minutes shall be taken at each meeting by the Secretary, or in that individual's absence, the Chair shall select another Commission member to take minutes during that absence. The Commission shall make its minutes publicly available and accessible not later than one week after each meeting.

SEC. 7. ANNUAL REPORT GUIDELINES.

The Commission shall make an annual report, beginning the year of the first Commission meeting. The report shall address the current conditions affecting Black men and boys and make recommendations to address these issues. The report shall be submitted to the President, the Congress, members of the President's Cabinet, and the chairs of the appropriate committees of jurisdiction. The Commission shall make the report publicly available online on a centralized Federal website.

SEC. 8. COMMISSION COMPENSATION.

Members of the Commission shall serve on the Commission without compensation.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore** (Mr. BROWN of Maryland). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) and the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia.