

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 706

To create a National Museum of Women's History Advisory Committee.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 24, 1999

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. REID, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. DODD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. SARBANES) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To create a National Museum of Women's History Advisory Committee.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) A national institution in Washington, Dis-
6 trict of Columbia, the Nation's Capital, that is dedi-
7 cated to the heritage of women does not exist.

1 (2) In the 34-year period beginning with 1963,
2 only 2 exhibits were authorized on women's history
3 at the National Museum of American History.

4 (3) Less than 5 percent of the Nation's 2,200
5 National Historic Landmarks are dedicated to
6 women, and there are only 40 public outdoor statues
7 of American women in our Nation.

8 (4) The historic contributions of women to civ-
9 ilization and to our Nation have gone unnoted or are
10 misunderstood, leaving a gap in our Nation's histor-
11 ical record.

12 (5) Knowledge of one's heritage is critical in de-
13 veloping a personal sense of competence and poten-
14 tial.

15 (6) Lack of appreciation for women's historic
16 contributions leads to a lack of value, understanding,
17 and respect for women and girls, and invites dis-
18 crimination or violence against females.

19 (7) A National Museum of Women's History is
20 needed to profile the specific achievements that indi-
21 vidual women have made to all aspects of human en-
22 deavor, and to explore and celebrate the contribu-
23 tions that women have made in their various roles
24 in family and society.

1 **SEC. 2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

2 There is established an advisory committee to be
3 known as the National Museum of Women’s History Advi-
4 sory Committee (in this Act referred to as the “Advisory
5 Committee”).

6 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP.**

7 (a) COMPOSITION.—The Advisory Committee shall be
8 composed of 5 ex officio nonvoting members and 21 voting
9 members.

10 (b) EX OFFICIO NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The Advi-
11 sory Committee shall be composed of 5 ex officio non-
12 voting members, of whom—

13 (1) 1 member shall be appointed by the Presi-
14 dent;

15 (2) 1 member shall be appointed by the Sec-
16 retary of the Interior;

17 (3) 1 member shall be appointed by the Admin-
18 istrator of General Services;

19 (4) 1 member shall be appointed by the Sec-
20 retary of Commerce; and

21 (5) 1 member shall be appointed by the Sec-
22 retary of Education.

23 (c) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Advisory Committee
24 shall be composed of 21 voting members, of whom—

1 (1) 1 member shall be appointed by the Speak-
2 er of the House of Representatives, from among the
3 Members of the House of Representatives;

4 (2) 1 member shall be appointed by the Minor-
5 ity Leader of the House of Representatives, from
6 among the Members of the House of Representa-
7 tives;

8 (3) 1 member shall be appointed by the Major-
9 ity Leader of the Senate, from among the Members
10 of the Senate;

11 (4) 1 member shall be appointed by the Minor-
12 ity Leader of the Senate, from among the Members
13 of the Senate;

14 (5) 5 members shall be appointed by the Presi-
15 dent of the National Museum of Women’s History,
16 Inc., from among the founding members of the
17 Board of Trustees of the National Museum of Wom-
18 en’s History, Inc., or the members of such Board;
19 and

20 (6) 12 members shall be appointed by the
21 President of the National Museum of Women’s His-
22 tory, Inc., in consultation with the Secretary of the
23 Interior, from among private citizens who can con-
24 tribute to the success of the Advisory Committee as
25 determined by such President—

1 (A) at least 5 of whom shall be appointed
2 after consultation with the Organization of
3 American Historians, the American Studies As-
4 sociation, the American Historical Association,
5 the Women’s Studies Association, the American
6 Association of Museums, and other interested
7 academic or professional organizations; and

8 (B) at least 2 of whom shall be appointed
9 on the basis of their expertise in financial mat-
10 ters.

11 (d) **TIMELINE.**—Members of the Advisory Committee
12 shall be appointed not later than 30 days after the date
13 of enactment of this Act.

14 (e) **LIMITATION.**—Effective 30 days after the date of
15 enactment of this Act, and notwithstanding subsections
16 (a) through (d), the failure of an appointing authority to
17 appoint a member under subsection (b), or under para-
18 graph (1), (2), (3), or (4) of subsection (c), shall not affect
19 the ability of the Advisory Committee to meet and carry
20 out the functions of the Advisory Committee under this
21 Act.

22 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

23 (a) **STUDY.**—The Advisory Committee shall conduct
24 a thorough study of all matters relating to—

1 (1) identifying and recommending a site for the
2 National Museum of Women’s History in Wash-
3 ington, District of Columbia;

4 (2) developing a business plan for the creation
5 and maintenance of the National Museum of Wom-
6 en’s History, which shall be funded solely through
7 private contributions by the American people; and

8 (3) assisting with respect to the collection and
9 programs of the National Museum of Women’s His-
10 tory.

11 (b) **FIRST MEETING.**—The Advisory Committee shall
12 hold the first meeting of the Advisory Committee not later
13 than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

14 (c) **FINAL REPORT.**—The Advisory Committee shall
15 submit a final report to Congress regarding the matters
16 studied under subsection (a) not later than 6 months after
17 the date of the first meeting of the Advisory Committee.

18 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

19 From amounts available to the Secretary of the Inte-
20 rior, the Secretary shall provide all necessary administra-
21 tive services, facilities, support, and funds necessary for
22 the performance of the duties of the Advisory Committee.

23 **SEC. 6. COMPENSATION.**

24 Each member of the Advisory Committee who is not
25 an officer or employee of the Federal Government may re-

1 ceive compensation for each day such member is engaged
2 in the performance of the duties of the Advisory Com-
3 mittee at a daily rate to be determined by the Secretary
4 of the Interior. Such rate shall not exceed the maximum
5 daily rate of pay for a position classified above GS-15
6 under section 5108 of title 5, United States Code.

7 **SEC. 7. TRAVEL.**

8 Members of the Advisory Committee shall be entitled
9 to travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsist-
10 ence, as authorized under sections 5702 and 5703 of title
11 5, United States Code, for persons in the Federal Govern-
12 ment service employed temporarily or intermittently.

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