

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2707

To reauthorize the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To reauthorize the Underground Railroad Educational and
Cultural Program.

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. UNDERGROUND RAILROAD EDUCATIONAL AND**
4 **CULTURAL PROGRAM.**

5 (a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary of
6 Education, in consultation and cooperation with the Sec-
7 retary of the Interior, is authorized to make grants to one
8 or more nonprofit educational organizations that are es-
9 tablished to research, display, interpret, and collect arti-
10 facts relating to the history of the Underground Railroad.

1 (b) GRANT AGREEMENT.—Each nonprofit edu-
2 cational organization awarded a grant under this section
3 shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Edu-
4 cation. Each such agreement shall require the organiza-
5 tion—

6 (1) to establish a facility to house, display, and
7 interpret the artifacts related to the history of the
8 Underground Railroad, and to make the interpretive
9 efforts available to institutions of higher education
10 that award a baccalaureate or graduate degree;

11 (2) to demonstrate substantial private support
12 for the facility through the implementation of a pub-
13 lic-private partnership between a State or local pub-
14 lic entity and a private entity for the support of the
15 facility, which private entity shall provide matching
16 funds for the support of the facility in an amount
17 equal to 4 times the amount of the contribution of
18 the State or local public entity, except that not more
19 than 20 percent of the matching funds may be pro-
20 vided by the Federal Government;

21 (3) to create an endowment to fund any and all
22 shortfalls in the costs of the on-going operations of
23 the facility;

24 (4) to establish a network of satellite centers
25 throughout the United States to help disseminate in-

1 formation regarding the Underground Railroad
2 throughout the United States, if such satellite cen-
3 ters raise 80 percent of the funds required to estab-
4 lish the satellite centers from non-Federal public and
5 private sources;

6 (5) to establish the capability to electronically
7 link the facility with other local and regional facili-
8 ties that have collections and programs which inter-
9 pret the history of the Underground Railroad; and

10 (6) to submit, for each fiscal year for which the
11 organization receives funding under this section, a
12 report to the Secretary of Education that contains—

13 (A) a description of the programs and ac-
14 tivities supported by the funding;

15 (B) the audited financial statement of the
16 organization for the preceding fiscal year;

17 (C) a plan for the programs and activities
18 to be supported by the funding as the Secretary
19 may require; and

20 (D) an evaluation of the programs and ac-
21 tivities supported by the funding as the Sec-
22 retary may require.

23 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
25 \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, \$6,000,000 for fiscal year

1 2009, \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, \$3,000,000 for fis-
2 cal year 2011, and \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

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