

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2707

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2007

Received

AUGUST 3, 2007

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
Pensions

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. UNDERGROUND RAILROAD EDUCATIONAL AND**
2 **CULTURAL PROGRAM.**

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

9 (b) GRANT AGREEMENT.—Each nonprofit edu-
10 cational organization awarded a grant under this section
11 shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Edu-
12 cation. Each such agreement shall require the organiza-
13 tion—

14 (1) to establish a facility to house, display, and
15 interpret the artifacts related to the history of the
16 Underground Railroad, and to make the interpretive
17 efforts available to institutions of higher education
18 that award a baccalaureate or graduate degree;

19 (2) to demonstrate substantial private support
20 for the facility through the implementation of a pub-
21 lic-private partnership between a State or local pub-
22 lic entity and a private entity for the support of the
23 facility, which private entity shall provide matching
24 funds for the support of the facility in an amount
25 equal to 4 times the amount of the contribution of
26 the State or local public entity, except that not more

1 than 20 percent of the matching funds may be pro-
2 vided by the Federal Government;

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

6 (4) to establish a network of satellite centers
7 throughout the United States to help disseminate in-
8 formation regarding the Underground Railroad
9 throughout the United States, if such satellite cen-
10 ters raise 80 percent of the funds required to estab-
11 lish the satellite centers from non-Federal public and
12 private sources;

13 (5) to establish the capability to electronically
14 link the facility with other local and regional facili-
15 ties that have collections and programs which inter-
16 pret the history of the Underground Railroad; and

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

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

22 (B) the audited financial statement of the
23 organization for the preceding fiscal year;

