

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 439

To establish a servitude and emancipation archival research clearinghouse
in the National Archives.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. WYNN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. WATT, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To establish a servitude and emancipation archival research
clearinghouse in the National Archives.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Servitude and Emanci-
5 pation Archival Research ClearingHouse Act” or the
6 “SEARCH Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES DATA-**
2 **BASE OF HISTORIC RECORDS REGARDING**
3 **SERVITUDE AND EMANCIPATION.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Archivist of the United
5 States shall establish, as a part of the National Archives,
6 a national database consisting of historic records of ser-
7 vitude and emancipation in the United States to assist Af-
8 rican Americans in researching their genealogy.

9 (b) **MAINTENANCE.**—The database shall be main-
10 tained by the National Historical Publications and
11 Records Commission.

12 (c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated—

14 (1) \$5,000,000 to establish the database; and

15 (2) \$5,000,000 to provide grants to States and
16 colleges and universities to preserve local records of
17 servitude and emancipation.

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