

# Union Calendar No. 548

110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 998

[Report No. 110-848]

To direct the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out a joint project at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of individuals who participated in the Civil Rights movement, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

Additional sponsors: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BACA, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. LEE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. WATT, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FARR, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SHULER, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CLAY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. BEAN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SIRES, Ms. CARSON, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WYNN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HOLT, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HARE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Mr. NADLER, Ms.

ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. TIBERI, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. LATOURETTE

SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

---

## A BILL

To direct the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out a joint project at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of individuals who participated in the Civil Rights movement, and for other purposes.

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 “Civil Rights History  
 5 Project Act of ~~2007~~ 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

8               (1) A fundamental principle of American de-  
 9       mocracy is that individuals should stand up for their  
 10       rights and beliefs and fight for justice.

11              (2) The actions of those who participated in the  
 12       Civil Rights movement from the 1950’s through the

1 1960's are a shining example of this principle in ac-  
2 tion, demonstrated in events as varied as the Mont-  
3 gomery Bus Boycott, the sit-ins, the Freedom Rides,  
4 the March on Washington, the drive for voting  
5 rights in Mississippi, and the March to Selma.

6 (3) While the Civil Rights movement had many  
7 visible leaders, including Thurgood Marshall, Dr.  
8 Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks, there  
9 were many others whose impact and experience were  
10 just as important to the cause but who are not as  
11 well known.

12 (4) The participants in the Civil Rights move-  
13 ment possess an invaluable resource in their first-  
14 hand memories of the movement, and the recording  
15 of the retelling of their stories and memories will  
16 provide a rich, detailed history of our Nation during  
17 an important and tumultuous period.

18 (5) It is in the Nation's interest to undertake  
19 a project to collect oral histories of individuals from  
20 the Civil Rights movement so future generations will  
21 be able to learn of their struggle and sacrifice  
22 through primary-source, eyewitness material. A co-  
23 ordinated Federal project would also focus attention  
24 on the efforts undertaken by various public and pri-  
25 vate entities to collect and interpret articles in all

1 formats relating to the Civil Rights movement, and  
2 serve as a model for future projects undertaken in  
3 museums, libraries, and universities throughout the  
4 Nation.

5 (6) The Library of Congress and the Smithso-  
6 nian Institution are appropriate repositories to col-  
7 lect, preserve, and make available to the public a col-  
8 lection of these oral histories. The Library and  
9 Smithsonian have expertise in the management of  
10 documentation projects, and experience in the devel-  
11 opment of cultural and educational programs for the  
12 public.

13 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to create  
14 a new federally sponsored, authorized, and funded project  
15 that will coordinate at a national level the collection of  
16 video and audio recordings of personal histories and  
17 testimonials of individuals who participated in the Amer-  
18 ican Civil Rights movement that will build upon and com-  
19 plement previous and ongoing documentary work on this  
20 subject, and to assist and encourage local efforts to pre-  
21 serve the memories of such individuals so that Americans  
22 of all current and future generations may hear from them  
23 directly and better appreciate the sacrifices they made.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT PROJECT AT LIBRARY**  
2 **OF CONGRESS AND NATIONAL MUSEUM OF**  
3 **AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE**  
4 **TO COLLECT VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDINGS**  
5 **OF HISTORIES OF PARTICIPANTS IN AMER-**  
6 **ICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Within the limits of avail-  
9 able funds, the Librarian of Congress (hereafter re-  
10 ferred to as the “Librarian”) and the Secretary of  
11 the Smithsonian Institution (hereafter referred to as  
12 the “Secretary”), acting jointly, shall establish an  
13 oral history project—

14 (A) to survey, during the initial phase of  
15 the project, collections of audio and video re-  
16 cordings of the reminiscences of participants in  
17 the Civil Rights movement that are housed in  
18 archives, libraries, museums, and other edu-  
19 cational institutions, as well as ongoing docu-  
20 mentary work, in order to augment and com-  
21 plement these endeavors and avoid duplication  
22 of effort;

23 (B) to solicit, reproduce, and collect—

24 (i) video and audio recordings of per-  
25 sonal histories and testimonials of individ-

1 uals who participated in the Civil Rights  
2 movement, and

3 (ii) visual and written materials (such  
4 as letters, diaries, photographs, and  
5 ephemera) relevant to the personal his-  
6 tories of individuals;

7 (C) to create a collection of the recordings  
8 and other materials obtained, and to catalog  
9 and index the collection in a manner the Li-  
10 brarian and the Secretary consider appropriate;  
11 and

12 (D) to make the collection available for  
13 public use through the Library of Congress and  
14 the National Museum of African American His-  
15 tory and Culture, as well as through such other  
16 methods as the Librarian and the Secretary  
17 consider appropriate.

18 (2) ROLE OF DIRECTOR OF MUSEUM.—The  
19 Secretary shall carry out the Secretary’s duties  
20 under this Act through the Director of the National  
21 Museum of African American History and Culture.

22 (b) USE OF AND CONSULTATION WITH OTHER ENTI-  
23 TIES.—The Librarian and the Secretary may carry out the  
24 activities described in subsection (a)(1) through agree-  
25 ments and partnerships entered into with other govern-

1 ment and private entities, and may otherwise consult with  
2 interested persons (within the limits of available re-  
3 sources) and develop appropriate guidelines and arrange-  
4 ments for soliciting, acquiring, and making available re-  
5 cordings under the project under this Act.

6 (c) SERVICES OF EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS; AC-  
7 CEPTANCE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES; ADVANCE PAY-  
8 MENTS.—In carrying out activities described in subsection  
9 (a)(1), the Librarian and the Secretary may—

10 (1) procure temporary and intermittent services  
11 under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code;

12 (2) accept and utilize the services of volunteers  
13 and other uncompensated personnel and reimburse  
14 them for travel expenses, including per diem, as au-  
15 thorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States  
16 Code; and

17 (3) make advances of money and payments in  
18 advance in accordance with section 3324 of title 31,  
19 United States Code.

20 (d) TIMING.—As soon as practicable after the enact-  
21 ment of this Act, the Librarian and the Secretary shall  
22 begin collecting video and audio recordings and other ma-  
23 terials under subsection (a)(1), and shall attempt to collect  
24 the first such recordings from the oldest individuals in-  
25 volved.

1 (e) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term “Civil Rights  
2 movement” means the movement to secure racial equality  
3 in the United States for African Americans that, focusing  
4 on the period 1954 through 1968, challenged the practice  
5 of racial segregation in the Nation and achieved equal  
6 rights legislation for all American citizens.

7 **SEC. 4. PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY**  
8 **PROJECT.**

9 (a) ENCOURAGING SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE  
10 OF DONATIONS.—The Librarian of Congress and the Sec-  
11 retary are encouraged to solicit and accept donations of  
12 funds and in-kind contributions to support activities under  
13 section 3.

14 (b) DEDICATION OF FUNDS PROVIDED TO LIBRARY  
15 OF CONGRESS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of  
16 law—

17 (1) any funds donated to the Librarian of Con-  
18 gress to support the activities of the Librarian under  
19 section 3 shall be deposited entirely into an account  
20 established for such purpose;

21 (2) the funds contained in such account shall be  
22 used solely to support such activities; and

23 (3) the Librarian of Congress may not deposit  
24 into such account any funds donated to the Librar-



1       ian which are not donated for the exclusive purpose  
2       of supporting such activities.

3 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4       There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
5 this Act—

6           (1) \$500,000 for fiscal year ~~2008~~ *2009*; and

7           (2) such sums as may be necessary for each of  
8 the fiscal years ~~2009 through 2012~~ *2010 through*  
9 *2013*.

Union Calendar No. 548

110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 998**

[Report No. 110-848]

---

---

**A BILL**

To direct the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out a joint project at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of individuals who participated in the Civil Rights movement, and for other purposes.

---

---

SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed