

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1592

To reauthorize the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 12, 2007

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. ALEXANDER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## 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 1  
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 that 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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