

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4354

To affirm the power of the President to revoke the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded to Bill Cosby and to provide for criminal penalties for anyone who wears or publicly displays a Presidential Medal of Freedom that has been revoked.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2016

Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. JONES, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. RIGELL, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. TROTT, Mr. SALMON, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. PALAZZO, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. HUFFMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To affirm the power of the President to revoke the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded to Bill Cosby and to provide for criminal penalties for anyone who wears or publicly displays a Presidential Medal of Freedom that has been revoked.

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. SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT**
2 **SHOULD REVOKE THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL**
3 **OF FREEDOM AWARDED TO BILL COSBY.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Established in 1963 and bestowed by the
6 President of the United States, the Presidential
7 Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian honor of
8 our Nation.

9 (2) The Presidential Medal of Freedom is
10 awarded to recipients for “especially meritorious
11 contributions to the security or national interests of
12 the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or
13 other significant public or private endeavors”.

14 (3) William Henry “Bill” Cosby, Jr. (in this
15 subsection referred to as “Cosby”), received the
16 Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002.

17 (4) In recent months, more than 50 women
18 have come forward and conveyed disturbing accounts
19 of sexual assault and drugging by Cosby.

20 (5) The statute of limitations has expired for
21 many of these incidents, and as a result, the major-
22 ity of these women will never get their day in court.

23 (6) According to the New York Daily News,
24 court documents obtained by the Associated Press
25 on Monday, July 7, 2015, revealed that “Cosby ad-
26 mitted under oath that he bought Quaaludes to dope

1 the women he wanted to grope—and slipped the sed-
2 ative to at least one lady and ‘other people’”.

3 (7) During a deposition on September 29,
4 2005, a lawyer, Dolores Troiani, asked Cosby,
5 “When you got the Quaaludes, was it in your mind
6 that you were going to use these Quaaludes for
7 young women that you wanted to have sex with?”
8 and Cosby answered “Yes.”.

9 (8) On December 30, 2015, prosecutors from
10 Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, charged Cosby
11 with three counts of felony aggravated indecent as-
12 sault for allegedly drugging and sexually assaulting
13 a young woman in 2004.

14 (9) The prosecutors noted in an affidavit of
15 probable cause that “Cosby obtained seven separate
16 prescriptions for Quaaludes that he did not person-
17 ally ingest, nor ever intended to personally ingest”
18 and that “the victim’s substantially impaired condi-
19 tion prevented her ability to consent, or even defend
20 herself from Cosby’s sexual assault”.

21 (10) Cosby has admitted to drugging women
22 with the intention to satisfy his sexual desires, and,
23 therefore, the Federal Government should not recog-
24 nize Cosby with an honor like the Presidential Medal
25 of Freedom.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
 2 gress that the President should revoke the Presidential
 3 Medal of Freedom awarded to William Henry “Bill”
 4 Cosby, Jr.

5 **SEC. 2. CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR WEARING OR DISPLAYING**
 6 **A REVOKED PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREE-**
 7 **DOM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 18, United
 9 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 10 lowing:

11 **“§ 717. Revoked Presidential Medal of Freedom**

12 “Whoever, with the intent to defraud any person,
 13 wears or publicly displays a Presidential Medal of Free-
 14 dom that has been declared to be revoked by the President
 15 shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not more
 16 than one year, or both.”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 18 at the beginning of chapter 33 of title 18, United States
 19 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to
 20 section 716 the following:

“717. Revoked Presidential Medal of Freedom.”.

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