

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2283

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs that include the history of peoples of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the settling and founding of America, the social, economic, and political environments that led to the development of discriminatory laws targeting Asians and Pacific Islanders and their relation to current events, and the impact and contributions of Asian Americans to the development and enhancement of American life, United States history, literature, the economy, politics, body of laws, and culture, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2021

Ms. MENG (for herself, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CORREA, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs that include the history of peoples of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the settling and founding of America,

the social, economic, and political environments that led to the development of discriminatory laws targeting Asians and Pacific Islanders and their relation to current events, and the impact and contributions of Asian Americans to the development and enhancement of American life, United States history, literature, the economy, politics, body of laws, and culture, 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 “Teaching Asian Pacific
5 American History Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The United States of America has benefited
9 from the integral role Asian Americans and Pacific
10 Islanders have played in our country’s history and
11 contributions to the world.

12 (2) The Pacific Island Territories of Guam,
13 American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the
14 Northern Mariana Islands have unique histories that
15 are often overlooked in American history despite
16 their immense contributions to our Nation.

17 (3) The traditional American K–12 curriculum
18 continues to be taught from a Eurocentric point of
19 view and exclude histories of racist immigration laws
20 relevant to policies today.

1 (4) K–12 social studies textbooks poorly rep-
2 resent Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, over-
3 look the diversity within those communities, and
4 print images of Asian Americans and Pacific Island-
5 ers in stereotypical roles.

6 (5) The Federal Government, through support
7 for educational activities of national museums estab-
8 lished under Federal law, can assist teachers in ef-
9 forts to incorporate historically accurate instruction
10 on the comprehensive history of Asian Americans
11 and Pacific Islanders and assist students in their ex-
12 ploration of Asian Pacific American history as an in-
13 tegral part of American history.

14 (6) The history of America’s system of immi-
15 gration is rife with racism, embedded in goals of hir-
16 ing workers to work for cheaper wages and labor in
17 heinous working conditions.

18 (7) Congress has continuously passed anti-
19 Asian laws as the result of the scapegoating of Asian
20 immigrant laborers for the United States economic
21 downturns.

22 (8) The history of South Asian Americans in
23 the United States dates back to the late 1700s.

1 (9) The history of Native Hawaiians and Pa-
2 cific Islanders in what is now considered to be the
3 United States predates the founding of our Nation.

4 (10) In 1993, Congress passed a resolution that
5 was signed into law formally apologizing for the
6 United States role in the illegal overthrow of the
7 Kingdom of Hawaii, which resulted in the suppres-
8 sion of the inherent sovereignty of the Native Ha-
9 waiian people.

10 (11) Twelve thousand Chinese laborers worked
11 in atrocious conditions to build the Transcontinental
12 Railroad, many dying from harsh weather conditions
13 and the dangers of handling explosives.

14 (12) The Page Act of 1875 was the United
15 States first restrictive immigration law, which
16 sought to prevent the entry of Asian women per-
17 ceived as immoral or suspected of prostitution.

18 (13) After the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
19 banned Chinese immigrants from immigrating to the
20 United States, Japanese were hired. After the Japa-
21 nese were banned from immigrating due to the Gen-
22 tleman's Agreement of 1907, which halted immigra-
23 tion from Japan, Filipinos were hired under 3-year
24 contracts.

1 (14) Filipino farm workers helped found the
2 farm worker labor movement.

3 (15) The Immigration Act of 1917 restricted
4 immigration to the United States by barring immi-
5 gration from the Asia-Pacific zone.

6 (16) The Immigration Act of 1924 set a na-
7 tional origin quota to deter immigration.

8 (17) President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Execu-
9 tive Order 9066 authorized the incarceration of over
10 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of
11 whom were American citizens, based solely on race.

12 (18) Beginning in 1954, the United States dis-
13 placed over 3,000,000 refugees from Cambodia,
14 Laos, and Vietnam due to covert and overt United
15 States military operations in Southeast Asia.

16 (19) The Immigration Act of 1965 made family
17 unification and skills-based migration the bedrock
18 principle of immigration to the United States.

19 (20) The United States conducted nuclear test-
20 ing on the Bikini and Enewetak Atoll of the Mar-
21 shall Islands have made parts of the island nation
22 uninhabitable and caused forced migration and
23 health complications that still impact the community
24 today.

1 (21) The United States ratified a Compact of
2 Free Association with the Federated States of Mi-
3 cronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the
4 Republic of Palau enabling citizens of these Pacific
5 Island nations to legally migrate to the United
6 States visa-free while the United States retains cer-
7 tain strategic military rights over their territorial
8 waters.

9 (22) In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, the
10 Refugee Act of 1980 helped more than 500,000
11 Southeast Asians gain permanent resident status in
12 the United States within the first decade of its pas-
13 sage.

14 (23) The Pacific Islander community represents
15 the largest concentration of any ethnic group en-
16 listed in the United States military, as well as rep-
17 resenting the highest numbers of casualties in the
18 current wars on terror.

19 (24) The “model minority” myth perpetuates
20 the stigma of Asian Americans as perpetual for-
21 eigners, and such stereotypes are used to pit minor-
22 ity groups against one another.

23 (25) The pattern of hate crimes and hate inci-
24 dents directed at Asians and Asian Americans has
25 repeated itself throughout history.

1 (26) Asian-American and African-American his-
2 tories of fighting against oppression and racism are
3 intertwined, from the Black Power Movement of the
4 1960s that birthed the Asian American Movement to
5 civil rights protests today.

6 (27) Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and
7 their allies continue to fight discrimination, racial
8 prejudice, hate crimes, scapegoating, structural rac-
9 ism, economic inequities, and benign and overt omis-
10 sion of the integral role they played in the develop-
11 ment of this country.

12 **SEC. 3. AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS EDUCATION.**

13 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—Section 2231(a) of the
14 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
15 U.S.C. 6661(a)) is amended—

16 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
17 inserting “, which shall include Asian Pacific Amer-
18 ican history,” after “American history”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (2)—

20 (A) by inserting “which shall include Asian
21 Pacific American history,” after “American his-
22 tory,”; and

23 (B) by inserting “, which shall include
24 Asian Pacific American history” after “tradi-
25 tional American history”.

1 (b) PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ACADEMIES
2 FOR AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.—Section 2232 of
3 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
4 U.S.C. 6662) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, which
7 shall include Asian Pacific American history,”
8 after “American History”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, which
10 shall include Asian Pacific American history,”
11 after “American History”;

12 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “, which
13 shall include Asian Pacific American history,” after
14 “American history”;

15 (3) in subsection (e)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1)—

17 (i) by inserting “, which shall include
18 Asian Pacific American history,” after
19 “American history”;

20 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

21 (I) by inserting “, which shall in-
22 clude Asian Pacific American his-
23 tory,” after “teachers of American
24 history”; and

1 (II) by inserting “, which shall
2 include Asian Pacific American his-
3 tory,” after “subjects of American
4 history”; and

5 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
6 “, which shall include Asian Pacific Amer-
7 ican history,” after “American history”;

8 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, which
9 shall include Asian Pacific American history,”
10 after “American history”; and

11 (C) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, and
12 with the Smithsonian Institution’s Asian Pacific
13 American Center to provide programs and re-
14 sources for educators and students” after “Na-
15 tional Parks”; and

16 (4) in subsection (f)—

17 (A) by inserting “, which shall include
18 Asian Pacific American history,” after “Amer-
19 ican history”;

20 (B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “,
21 which shall include Asian Pacific American his-
22 tory,” after “American history”; and

23 (C) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “,
24 which shall include Asian Pacific American his-
25 tory,” after “American history”.

1 (c) NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Section 2233 of the Ele-
2 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
3 6663) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “which shall
5 include Asian Pacific American history,” after
6 “American history,”; and

7 (2) in subsection (b), by inserting “which shall
8 include Asian Pacific American history,” after
9 “American history,”.

10 (d) NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL
11 PROGRESS.—Section 303(b)(2)(D) of the National As-
12 sessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (20
13 U.S.C. 9622(b)(2)(D)) is amended by inserting “(which
14 shall include Asian Pacific American history)” after “his-
15 tory,”.

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