

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1522

To amend title 36, United States Code, to request the President to issue an annual proclamation designating Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day, to designate the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Flag as an official symbol to recognize citizens of the United States held as hostages or wrongfully detained abroad, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2023

Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Mr. HILL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 amend title 36, United States Code, to request the President to issue an annual proclamation designating Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day, to designate the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Flag as an official symbol to recognize citizens of the United States held as hostages or wrongfully detained abroad, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Hostage and Wrongful
3 Detainee Day Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION.**

5 (a) **HOSTAGE AND WRONGFUL DETAINEE DAY.**—

6 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 1 of title 36, United
7 States Code, is amended—

8 (A) by redesignating the second section
9 146 (relating to Choose Respect Day) as section
10 147; and

11 (B) by adding at the end the following:

12 **“§ 148. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day**

13 “The President is requested to issue each year a
14 proclamation—

15 “(1) designating a day as Hostage and Wrong-
16 ful Detainee Day; and

17 “(2) calling on the people of the United States
18 to observe Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day with
19 appropriate ceremonies and activities.”.

20 (2) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-**
21 **MENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title
22 36, United States Code, is amended by striking the
23 item relating to the second section 146 and inserting
24 the following:

“147. Choose Respect Day.

“148. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day.”.

1 (b) HOSTAGE AND WRONGFUL DETAINEE FLAG.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 9 of title 36, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
4 following:

5 **“§ 904. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Flag**

6 “(a) DESIGNATION.—The Hostage and Wrongful De-
7 tainee Flag championed by the Bring Our Families Home
8 Campaign is designated as the symbol of the commitment
9 of the United States to recognizing citizens of the United
10 States held as hostages or wrongfully detained abroad.

11 “(b) REQUIRED DISPLAY.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Hostage and Wrongful
13 Detainee Flag shall be displayed at the locations
14 specified in paragraph (2) on the days specified in
15 paragraph (3).

16 “(2) LOCATIONS SPECIFIED.—The locations
17 specified in this paragraph are the following:

18 “(A) The Capitol.

19 “(B) The White House.

20 “(C) The buildings containing the official
21 office of—

22 “(i) the Secretary of State; and

23 “(ii) the Secretary of Defense.

24 “(3) DAYS SPECIFIED.—The days specified in
25 this paragraph are the following:

1 “(A) Flag Day, June 14.

2 “(B) Independence Day, July 4.

3 “(C) Any other day on which a citizen or
4 lawful permanent resident of the United
5 States—

6 “(i) returns to the United States from
7 being held hostage or wrongfully detained
8 abroad; or

9 “(ii) dies while being held hostage or
10 wrongfully detained abroad.

11 “(4) DISPLAY TO BE IN A MANNER VISIBLE TO
12 THE PUBLIC.—Display of the Hostage and Wrongful
13 Detainee Flag pursuant to this section shall be in a
14 manner designed to ensure visibility to the public.

15 “(5) LIMITATION.—This section may not be
16 construed or applied so as to require any employee
17 to report to work solely for the purpose of providing
18 for the display of the Hostage and Wrongful De-
19 tainee Flag.”.

20 (2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-
21 MENT.—The table of sections for chapter 9 of title
22 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at
23 the end the following:

“904. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Flag.”.

○