

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 340

To direct the President to designate a month as African Diaspora Heritage Month.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 30, 2025

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To direct the President to designate a month as African Diaspora Heritage Month.

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 “African Diaspora Her-
5 itage Month Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the African diaspora population in the
9 United States has grown significantly in recent
10 years, with the number of African immigrants grow-

1 ing at a rate of almost 246 percent from 2000 to
2 2019;

3 (2) as of 2024, the African diaspora in the
4 United States was comprised of approximately
5 50,000,000 people;

6 (3) the African diaspora community is one of
7 the most diverse communities in the United States,
8 inclusive of people who speak multiple languages,
9 whose rich heritage comes from all across the Afri-
10 can continent, and whose members practice various
11 faiths;

12 (4) during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries,
13 a significant number of enslaved people from Africa
14 were brought to the United States;

15 (5) immigrants of African origin boast some of
16 the highest educational achievements of any immi-
17 grant group;

18 (6) African diaspora households contribute bil-
19 lions of dollars to the economy of the United States,
20 with an estimated \$10,100,000,000 in Federal taxes,
21 \$4,700,000,000 in State and local taxes, and a
22 spending power of more than \$40,300,000,000 in
23 2015;

24 (7) Sub-Saharan African immigrants living in
25 the United States, Europe, and elsewhere sent back

1 \$46,000,000,000 in remittances to the continent of
2 Africa in 2021;

3 (8) Government agencies, including the Inter-
4 national Development Finance Corporation, the De-
5 partment of Commerce, the Department of the
6 Treasury, and the United States Trade Representa-
7 tive are critical to investments and enduring mutual
8 partnerships between the United States and African
9 nations;

10 (9) in 2023, through the African Growth and
11 Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), the
12 United States imported \$9,700,000,000 in goods
13 and resources;

14 (10) Prosper Africa and other similar Govern-
15 ment initiatives are critical to building and strength-
16 ening ties between the United States and African
17 businesses;

18 (11) the total two-way goods trade with Sub-
19 Saharan Africa totaled \$47,500,000,000 in 2023, a
20 6.2 percent increase from \$44,700,000,000 in 2021;

21 (12) the African diaspora plays an invaluable
22 role in shaping Government policy;

23 (13) members of the African diaspora have an
24 invaluable understanding of cross-cultural engage-
25 ment between the United States and Africa, existing

1 relations and networks on the African continent, and
2 can support efforts to facilitate stronger people-to-
3 people ties between the United States and Africa;

4 (14) the United States is committed to
5 strengthening the government-to-government rela-
6 tionships between the United States and countries
7 throughout the African continent;

8 (15) Congress strongly supports the hosting of
9 the second United States-Africa Leaders Summit by
10 the United States, which was held in December
11 2022, to boost collaboration between the Govern-
12 ment and the African diaspora community in the
13 United States, and to strengthen ties between the
14 United States and African nations by bringing to-
15 gether approximately 49 African heads of state;

16 (16) the African diaspora harbors a deep com-
17 mitment to family and community, an enduring
18 work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and con-
19 tribute to the society of the United States;

20 (17) all members of the African diaspora in the
21 United States deserve access to any Federal re-
22 sources they are legally eligible to receive and free-
23 dom to participate in civil life in the United States;
24 and

1 (18) the African diaspora community signifi-
 2 cantly contributes to the growth and prosperity of
 3 the United States, and Congress honors this abun-
 4 dant and growing community.

5 **SEC. 3. AFRICAN DIASPORA HERITAGE MONTH.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 36, United
 7 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 8 lowing:

9 **“§ 149. African Diaspora Heritage Month**

10 “The President shall issue each year a proclama-
 11 tion—

12 “(1) designating a month as African Diaspora
 13 Heritage Month;

14 “(2) calling on State and local governments and
 15 the people of the United States to observe African
 16 Diaspora Heritage Month with appropriate pro-
 17 grams and activities; and

18 “(3) urging civil and educational authorities of
 19 States and local governments to observe African Di-
 20 aspora Heritage Month through appropriate pro-
 21 grams and activities.”.

22 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
 23 The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 36, United

- 1 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
- 2 ing to section 148 the following:

“149. African Diaspora Heritage Month.”.

