

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3188

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, Native Hawaiian, 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, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and their relation to current events, and the impact and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders 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

MAY 10, 2023

Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. LOFGREN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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, Native Ha-

waiian, 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, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and their relation to current events, and the impact and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders 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 has benefitted from the
 9 integral role Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
 10 have played in our Nation’s history and contribu-
 11 tions to the world.

12 (2) The Pacific Island Territories of Guam,
 13 American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the
 14 Northern Mariana Islands and all of the Pacific Is-
 15 lands, including Melanesia, Micronesia, and Poly-
 16 nesia have unique histories that are often overlooked

1 in American history despite their immense contribu-
2 tions to our Nation.

3 (3) The traditional American history curriculum
4 for kindergarten through grade 12 continues to be
5 taught from a Eurocentric point of view and ex-
6 cludes histories of racist immigration laws relevant
7 to policies today.

8 (4) Social studies textbooks for kindergarten
9 through grade 12 poorly represent Asian Americans
10 and Pacific Islanders, overlook the diversity within
11 those communities, and print images of Asian Amer-
12 icans and Pacific Islanders in stereotypical roles.

13 (5) The Federal Government, through support
14 for educational activities of national museums estab-
15 lished under Federal law, can assist teachers in ef-
16 forts to incorporate historically accurate instruction
17 on the comprehensive history of Asian Americans
18 and Pacific Islanders and assist students in their ex-
19 ploration of Asian Pacific American history as an in-
20 tegral part of American history.

21 (6) The history of America's system of immi-
22 gration is rife with racism, embedded with goals of
23 hiring workers to work for cheaper wages and labor
24 in heinous working conditions.

1 (7) Congress has continuously passed anti-
2 Asian laws as the result of the scapegoating of Asian
3 immigrant laborers for economic downturns in the
4 United States.

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

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

10 (10) In 1993, Congress passed a joint resolu-
11 tion that was signed into law formally apologizing
12 for the role of the United States in the illegal over-
13 throw of the Kingdom of Hawaii, which resulted in
14 the suppression of the inherent sovereignty of the
15 Native Hawaiian people.

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

20 (12) The Page Act of 1875, the first restrictive
21 immigration law in the United States, sought to pre-
22 vent the entry of Asian women perceived as immoral
23 or suspected of prostitution.

24 (13) After the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
25 banned Chinese immigrants from immigrating to the

1 United States, Japanese immigrants were hired.
2 After the Japanese were banned from immigrating
3 due to the Gentleman's Agreement of 1907, which
4 halted immigration from Japan, Filipino immigrants
5 were hired under 3-year contracts.

6 (14) Filipino farm workers helped found the
7 farm worker labor movement in the United States.

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

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

13 (17) President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Execu-
14 tive Order 9066 authorized the incarceration of
15 more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry,
16 two-thirds of whom were American citizens, based
17 solely on race.

18 (18) Beginning in 1954, the United States dis-
19 placed more than 3,000,000 refugees from Cam-
20 bodia, Laos, and Vietnam due to covert and overt
21 United States military operations in Southeast Asia.

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

1 (20) The nuclear testing conducted by the
2 United States on the Bikini and Enewetak Atoll of
3 the Marshall Islands has made parts of the island
4 nation uninhabitable and caused forced migration
5 and health complications that still impact the com-
6 munity today.

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

15 (22) In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, the
16 Refugee Act of 1980 helped more than 500,000
17 Southeast Asians gain permanent resident status in
18 the United States within the first decade of its pas-
19 sage.

20 (23) The Pacific Islander community represents
21 the largest concentration of any ethnic group en-
22 listed in the United States military, as well as rep-
23 resenting the highest numbers of casualties in recent
24 wars.

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

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

8 (26) Asian American and African American his-
9 tories of fighting against oppression and racism are
10 intertwined, from the Black Power Movement of the
11 1960s that birthed the Asian American Movement to
12 civil rights protests in present day.

13 (27) Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and
14 their allies continue to fight discrimination, racial
15 prejudice, hate crimes, scapegoating, structural rac-
16 ism, economic inequities, and benign and overt omis-
17 sion of the integral role they played in the develop-
18 ment of this Nation.

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

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

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

1 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

5 (B) by inserting “, which shall include
6 Asian Pacific American history” after “tradi-
7 tional American history”.

8 (b) PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ACADEMIES
9 FOR AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.—Section 2232 of
10 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
11 U.S.C. 6662) is amended—

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

15 (2) in subsection (e)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1)—

17 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
18 graph (A), by inserting “, which shall in-
19 clude Asian Pacific American history,”
20 after “American history”;

21 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

22 (I) by inserting “, which shall in-
23 clude Asian Pacific American his-
24 tory,” after “teachers of American
25 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 (3) in paragraph (1) of subsection (f)—

17 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
18 (A), by inserting “including Asian Pacific
19 American history” after “American 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)—

8 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
9 by inserting “which shall include Asian Pacific
10 American history,” after “American history,”;
11 and

12 (B) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting
13 “which shall include Asian Pacific American
14 history,” after “American history,”.

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

○