

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4649

To support the International Decade for People of African Descent, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 29, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. BASS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. LEE, Ms. MOORE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To support the International Decade for People of African
Descent, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Decade for the People of African Descent Act”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

- Sec. 101. Office on the International Decade for People of African Descent; Ambassador at Large for the International Decade for People of African Descent.
- Sec. 102. Annual Report on the International Decade for People of African Descent.
- Sec. 103. Establishment of an International Decade for People of African Descent Internet site.
- Sec. 104. Programs and allocations of funds by United States Missions abroad.
- Sec. 105. Equal access to United States missions abroad for conducting activities relating to the International Decade for People of African Descent.

TITLE II—COMMISSION ON THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR
PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

- Sec. 201. Establishment and composition.
- Sec. 202. Duties of the Commission.
- Sec. 203. Powers of the Commission.
- Sec. 204. Commission personnel matters.
- Sec. 205. Report of the Commission.
- Sec. 206. Applicability of other laws.
- Sec. 207. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 208. Standards of conduct and disclosure.
- Sec. 209. Termination.

TITLE III—SPECIAL ADVISER ON THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE
FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

- Sec. 301. Special Adviser on the International Decade for People of African Descent.

1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) For over 400 years, more than 15,000,000
4 men, women, and children were the victims of the
5 tragic transatlantic slave trade, one of the darkest
6 chapters in human history.

7 (2) Pursuant to United Nations General Assem-
8 bly Resolution 68/237 (2013), the United Nations
9 General Assembly proclaimed 2015–2024 as the
10 International Decade for People of African Descent,
11 citing the need to strengthen national, regional and
12 international cooperation in relation to the full en-

1 joyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and polit-
2 ical rights by people of African descent, and their
3 full and equal participation in all aspects of society.

4 (3) As proclaimed by the United Nations Gen-
5 eral Assembly, the theme for the International Dec-
6 ade for People of African Descent is “People of Afri-
7 can descent: Recognition, Justice and Development”.

8 (4) A main objective for the International Dec-
9 ade for People of African Descent is to promote re-
10 spect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights
11 and fundamental freedoms by people of African de-
12 scent, as recognized in the Universal Declaration of
13 Human Rights.

14 (5) A delineated objective for the International
15 Decade for People of African Descent is to promote
16 a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse
17 heritage, culture and contribution of people of Afri-
18 can descent to the development of societies.

19 (6) A delineated objective for the International
20 Decade for People of African Descent is the adop-
21 tion and strengthening of national, regional and
22 international legal frameworks according to the
23 International Convention on the Elimination of All
24 Forms of Racial Discrimination and to ensure their
25 full and effective implementation.

1 (7) Nation states are encouraged to create and
2 implement National Action Plans that put into place
3 offices and initiatives that drive implementation of
4 the International Decade for People of African De-
5 scend.

6 (8) At the national level, nation states should
7 take concrete and practical steps through the adop-
8 tion and effective implementation of national and
9 international legal action plans, initiatives, frame-
10 works, policies and programs to combat racism, ra-
11 cial discrimination, xenophobia and related intoler-
12 ance faced by people of African descent, taking into
13 account the particular situation of women, girls and
14 young males through—

15 (A) recognition;

16 (B) justice;

17 (C) development; and

18 (D) addressing multiple or aggravated dis-
19 crimination.

20 (9) On the regional and international levels, en-
21 tities are among others called to raise awareness,
22 disseminate the International Convention on the
23 Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,
24 assist states in the full and effective implementation
25 of their commitments, collect statistical data, incor-

1 porate human rights into development programs,
2 and honor and preserve historical memory of people
3 of African descent.

4 (10) Among others, some of the steps and
5 measures being undertaken by the United Nations
6 General Assembly include the appointment of the
7 United Nations High Commissioner for Human
8 Rights to act as coordinator of the International
9 Decade for People of African Descent, the establish-
10 ment of a forum to serve as a consultation mecha-
11 nism, convening of a final assessment of the Inter-
12 national Decade for People of African Descent, and
13 a permanent memorial at the United Nations head-
14 quarters to honor the memory of the victims of slav-
15 ery and the transatlantic slave trade.

16 (11) The Secretary-General of the United Na-
17 tions is also required to report to the General As-
18 sembly at its sixty-third session on the establishment
19 and implementation of the above delineated meas-
20 ures.

21 (12) Upon the launch of the International Dec-
22 ade for People of African Descent in 2015, Members
23 of the United States Congress introduced House
24 Resolution 120 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 5
25 in support of the International Decade for People of

1 African Descent, and H.R. 1039 to establish an Of-
2 fice of Global African Descent Affairs in the Depart-
3 ment of State to monitor implementation of the
4 commitments of the International Decade for People
5 of African Descent around the world.

6 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **AMBASSADOR AT LARGE.**—The term “Am-
9 bassador at Large” means the Ambassador at Large
10 for the International Decade for People of African
11 Descent appointed under section 101(b).

12 (2) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The term “Annual Re-
13 port” means the Annual Report on the International
14 Decade for People of African Descent described in
15 section 102.

16 (3) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
17 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-
18 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations
19 of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs
20 of the House of Representatives.

21 (4) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission”
22 means the United States Commission on the Inter-
23 national Decade for People of African Descent es-
24 tablished in section 201(a).

1 (5) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.—The term “Execu-
2 tive Summary” means the Executive Summary to
3 the Annual Report, as described in section 102(3).

4 (6) GOVERNMENT OR FOREIGN GOVERN-
5 MENT.—The term “government” or “foreign govern-
6 ment” includes any agency or instrumentality of the
7 government.

8 (7) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Of-
9 fice on the International Decade for People of Afri-
10 can Descent established in section 101(a).

11 (8) SPECIAL ADVISER.—The term “Special Ad-
12 viser” means the Special Adviser to the President on
13 the International Decade for People of African De-
14 scend described in section 301 of this Act.

15 **TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF** 16 **STATE ACTIVITIES**

17 **SEC. 101. OFFICE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR**
18 **PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT; AMBAS-**
19 **SADOR AT LARGE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL**
20 **DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—There is estab-
22 lished within the Department of State an Office on the
23 International Decade for People of African Descent that
24 shall be headed by the Ambassador at Large for the Inter-

1 national Decade for People of African Descent appointed
2 under subsection (b).

3 (b) APPOINTMENT.—The Ambassador at Large shall
4 be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and
5 consent of the Senate.

6 (c) DUTIES.—The Ambassador at Large shall have
7 the following responsibilities:

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The primary responsibility
9 of the Ambassador at Large shall be to advance the
10 full enjoyment of rights and equal participation of
11 people of African descent.

12 (2) ADVISORY ROLE.—The Ambassador at
13 Large shall be a principal adviser to the President
14 and the Secretary of State regarding matters affect-
15 ing implementation of the International Decade for
16 People of African Descent and, with advice from the
17 Commission on the International Decade for People
18 of African Descent, shall make recommendations re-
19 garding adopting and implementing policies to
20 strengthen United States advocacy on behalf of indi-
21 viduals of African descent.

22 (3) DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.—Subject to
23 the direction of the President and the Secretary of
24 State, the Ambassador at Large is authorized to
25 represent the United States in matters and cases

1 relevant to the International Decade for People of
2 African Descent abroad in—

3 (A) contacts with foreign governments,
4 intergovernmental organizations, and special-
5 ized global and regional agencies of the United
6 Nations, the Organization on Security and Co-
7 operation in Europe, and other international or-
8 ganizations of which the United States is a
9 member; and

10 (B) multilateral conferences and meetings
11 relevant to the International Decade for People
12 of African Descent abroad.

13 (4) REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Am-
14 bassador at Large shall have the reporting respon-
15 sibilities described in section 102.

16 (d) FUNDING.—The Secretary of State shall provide
17 the Ambassador at Large with such funds as may be nec-
18 essary for the hiring of staff for the Office, for the conduct
19 of initiatives by the Office, and for necessary travel to
20 carry out the provisions of this section.

21 **SEC. 102. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DEC-**
22 **ADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.**

23 On September 1 of each year or the first day there-
24 after on which the appropriate House of Congress is in
25 session, the Secretary of State, with the assistance of the

1 Ambassador at Large, and taking into consideration the
2 recommendations of the Commission, shall prepare and
3 transmit to Congress an Annual Report on the Inter-
4 national Decade for People of African Descent by pro-
5 viding additional detailed information with respect to mat-
6 ters involving the International Decade for People of Afri-
7 can Descent. Each Annual Report shall contain the fol-
8 lowing:

9 (1) A description of the status of efforts and
10 initiatives to implement the International Decade for
11 People of African Descent, including trends toward
12 improvement in the respect for strengthening advoca-
13 cacy on behalf of individuals of African descent.

14 (2) A description of United States actions and
15 policies in support of the International Decade for
16 People of African Descent, including a description of
17 the measures and policies implemented during the
18 preceding 12 months by the United States under
19 this Act.

20 (3) An Executive Summary to the Annual Re-
21 port highlighting the status of the International
22 Decade for People of African Descent.

1 **SEC. 103. ESTABLISHMENT OF A INTERNATIONAL DECADE**
2 **FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT INTER-**
3 **NET SITE.**

4 In order to facilitate access by nongovernmental orga-
5 nizations and by the public around the world to inter-
6 national documents relating to promotion of the Inter-
7 national Decade for People of African Descent, the Sec-
8 retary of State, with the assistance of the Ambassador at
9 Large, shall establish and maintain an Internet site con-
10 taining major international documents relating to the
11 International Decade for People of African Descent, the
12 Annual Report, the Executive Summary, and any other
13 documentation or references to other sites as deemed ap-
14 propriate or relevant by the Ambassador at Large.

15 **SEC. 104. PROGRAMS AND ALLOCATIONS OF FUNDS BY**
16 **UNITED STATES MISSIONS ABROAD.**

17 It is the sense of the Congress that—

18 (1) United States diplomatic missions in coun-
19 tries may promote the International Decade for Peo-
20 ple of African Descent; and

21 (2) in allocating or recommending the allocation
22 of funds or the recommendation of candidates for
23 programs and grants funded by the United States
24 Government, United States diplomatic missions
25 should give particular consideration to those pro-
26 grams, initiatives, and candidates deemed to assist

1 in the promotion of the International Decade for
2 People of African Descent.

3 **SEC. 105. EQUAL ACCESS TO UNITED STATES MISSIONS**
4 **ABROAD FOR CONDUCTING ACTIVITIES RE-**
5 **LATING TO THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE**
6 **FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.**

7 The Secretary of State shall permit, on terms no less
8 favorable than that accorded other nongovernmental ac-
9 tivities unrelated to the conduct of the diplomatic mission,
10 access to the premises of any United States diplomatic
11 mission or consular post by any United States citizen
12 seeking to conduct an activity for the International Dec-
13 ade for People of African Descent.

14 **TITLE II—COMMISSION ON THE**
15 **INTERNATIONAL DECADE**
16 **FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DE-**
17 **SCENT**

18 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the United
20 States Commission on the International Decade for People
21 of African Descent.

22 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

23 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be
24 composed of—

1 (A) the Ambassador at Large, who shall
2 serve ex officio as a nonvoting member of the
3 Commission; and

4 (B) eighteen other members, who shall be
5 United States citizens who are not being paid
6 as officers or employees of the United States,
7 and who shall be appointed as follows:

8 (i) Six members of the Commission
9 shall be appointed by the President.

10 (ii) Six members of the Commission
11 shall be appointed by the President pro
12 tempore of the Senate, of which two of the
13 members shall be appointed upon the rec-
14 ommendation of the leader in the Senate of
15 the political party that is not the political
16 party of the President, and of which one of
17 the members shall be appointed upon the
18 recommendation of the leader in the Sen-
19 ate of the other political party.

20 (iii) Six members of the Commission
21 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
22 House of Representatives, of which two of
23 the members shall be appointed upon the
24 recommendation of the leader in the House
25 of the political party that is not the polit-

1 ical party of the President, and of which
2 one of the members shall be appointed
3 upon the recommendation of the leader in
4 the House of the other political party.

5 (2) SELECTION.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—Members of the Com-
7 mission shall be selected among distinguished
8 individuals noted for their knowledge and expe-
9 rience in fields relevant to the issue of the
10 International Decade for People of African De-
11 scent, including foreign affairs, direct experi-
12 ence abroad, human rights, international law,
13 education, labor, law enforcement, health, inter-
14 governmental engagement, and community or-
15 ganizations.

16 (B) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—Each mem-
17 ber of the Commission shall be required to ob-
18 tain a security clearance.

19 (3) TIME OF APPOINTMENT.—The appoint-
20 ments required by paragraph (1) shall be made not
21 later than 120 days after the date of the enactment
22 of this Act.

23 (c) TERMS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The term of office of each
25 member of the Commission shall be 2 years.

1 (2) INELIGIBILITY FOR REAPPOINTMENT.—If a
2 member of the Commission attends, by being phys-
3 ically present or by conference call, less than 75 per-
4 cent of the meetings of the Commission during one
5 of that member’s terms on the Commission, the
6 member shall not be eligible for reappointment to
7 the Commission.

8 (d) ELECTION OF CHAIR.—At the first meeting of
9 the Commission after May 30 of each year, a majority of
10 the members of the Commission present and voting shall
11 elect the Chair of the Commission. No member of the
12 Commission is eligible to be elected as Chair of the Com-
13 mission for a second, consecutive term.

14 (e) QUORUM.—Fifteen voting members of the Com-
15 mission shall constitute a quorum for purposes of
16 transacting business.

17 (f) MEETINGS.—Each year, within 15 days, or as
18 soon as practicable, after the issuance of the International
19 Decade for People of African Descent Report, the Com-
20 mission shall convene. The Commission shall otherwise
21 meet at the call of the Chair or, if no Chair has been elect-
22 ed for that calendar year, at the call of fifteen voting mem-
23 bers of the Commission.

24 (g) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy of the Commission
25 shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the manner

1 in which the original appointment was made. A member
2 may serve after the expiration of that member's term until
3 a successor has taken office. Any member appointed to
4 fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term
5 for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall
6 be appointed only for the remainder of that term.

7 (h) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Administrator
8 of General Services shall provide to the Commission on
9 a reimbursable basis (or, in the discretion of the Adminis-
10 trator, on a nonreimbursable basis) such administrative
11 support services as the Commission may request to carry
12 out the provisions of this title.

13 (i) FUNDING.—Members of the Commission shall be
14 allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of sub-
15 sistence at rates authorized for employees of agencies
16 under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States
17 Code, while away from their homes or regular places of
18 business in the performance of services for the Commis-
19 sion. Members of the Commission are subject to the re-
20 quirements set forth in chapters 300 through 304 of title
21 41, Code of Federal Regulations (commonly known as the
22 “Federal Travel Regulation”) and the Department of
23 State Standardized Regulations governing authorized
24 travel at government expense, including regulations con-
25 cerning the mode of travel, lodging and per diem expendi-

1 tures, reimbursement payments, and expense reporting
2 and documentation requirements.

3 **SEC. 202. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall have as its
5 primary responsibility—

6 (1) the annual and ongoing review of the facts
7 and circumstances of promotion of the International
8 Decade for People of African Descent, and the Exec-
9utive Summary, as well as information from other
10 sources as appropriate; and

11 (2) the making of policy recommendations to
12 the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress
13 with respect to matters involving the International
14 Decade for People of African Descent.

15 (b) MONITORING.—The Commission shall, on an on-
16 going basis, monitor facts and circumstances of promotion
17 of initiatives relating to the International Decade for Peo-
18 ple of African Descent, in consultation with independent
19 human rights groups and nongovernmental organizations,
20 including educational organizations, and make such rec-
21 ommendations as may be necessary to the appropriate of-
22 ficials and offices in the United States Government.

23 **SEC. 203. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

24 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
25 may, for the purpose of carrying out its duties under this

1 title, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places in the
2 United States, take testimony and receive evidence as the
3 Commission considers advisable to carry out the purposes
4 of this Act.

5 (b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The
6 Commission may secure directly from any Federal depart-
7 ment or agency such information as the Commission con-
8 siders necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.
9 Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the
10 head of such department or agency shall furnish such in-
11 formation to the Commission, subject to applicable law.

12 (c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use
13 the United States mails in the same manner and under
14 the same conditions as other departments and agencies of
15 the Federal Government.

16 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.—The Commis-
17 sion may adopt such rules and regulations, relating to ad-
18 ministrative procedure, as may be reasonably necessary to
19 enable it to carry out the provisions of this title.

20 (e) VIEWS OF THE COMMISSION.—The Members of
21 the Commission may speak in their capacity as private
22 citizens. Statements on behalf of the Commission shall be
23 issued in writing over the names of the Members. The
24 Commission shall in its written statements clearly describe
25 its statutory authority, distinguishing that authority from

1 that of appointed or elected officials of the United States
2 Government. Oral statements, where practicable, shall in-
3 clude a similar description.

4 (f) TRAVEL.—The Members of the Commission may,
5 with the approval of the Commission, conduct such travel
6 as is necessary to carry out the purpose of this title. Each
7 trip must be approved by a majority of the Commission.
8 This provision shall not apply to the Ambassador at
9 Large, whose travel shall not require approval by the Com-
10 mission.

11 **SEC. 204. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may, without re-
13 gard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and
14 terminate an Executive Director and such other additional
15 personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission
16 to perform its duties. The decision to employ or terminate
17 an Executive Director shall be made by an affirmative vote
18 of at least six of the nine members of the Commission.

19 (b) COMPENSATION.—The Commission may fix the
20 compensation of the Executive Director and other per-
21 sonnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and
22 subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States
23 Code, relating to classification of positions and General
24 Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the
25 Executive Director and other personnel may not exceed

1 the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule
2 under section 5316 of such title.

3 (c) PROFESSIONAL STAFF.—The Commission and
4 the Executive Director shall hire Commission staff on the
5 basis of professional and nonpartisan qualifications. Com-
6 missioners may not individually hire staff of the Commis-
7 sion. Staff shall serve the Commission as a whole and may
8 not be assigned to the particular service of a single Com-
9 missioner or a specified group of Commissioners. This
10 subsection does not prohibit staff personnel from assisting
11 individual members of the Commission with particular
12 needs related to their duties.

13 (d) STAFF AND SERVICES OF OTHER FEDERAL
14 AGENCIES.—

15 (1) DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—The Secretary of
16 State shall assist the Commission by providing on a
17 reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis to the Com-
18 mission such staff and administrative services as
19 may be necessary and appropriate to perform its
20 functions.

21 (2) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon the re-
22 quest of the Commission, the head of any Federal
23 department or agency may detail, on a reimbursable
24 or nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of
25 that department or agency to the Commission to as-

1 sist it in carrying out its functions under this title.

2 The detail of any such personnel shall be without
3 interruption or loss of civil service or Foreign Serv-
4 ice status or privilege.

5 (e) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—The Executive Direc-
6 tor shall be required to obtain a security clearance. The
7 Executive Director may request, on a needs-only basis and
8 in order to perform the duties of the Commission, that
9 other personnel of the Commission be required to obtain
10 a security clearance. The level of clearance shall be the
11 lowest necessary to appropriately perform the duties of the
12 Commission.

13 (f) COST.—The Commission shall reimburse all ap-
14 propriate Government agencies for the cost of obtaining
15 clearances for members of the commission, for the execu-
16 tive director, and for any other personnel.

17 (g) APPLICATION OF ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAWS.—
18 For purposes of providing remedies and procedures to ad-
19 dress alleged violations of rights and protections that per-
20 tain to employment discrimination, family and medical
21 leave, fair labor standards, employee polygraph protection,
22 worker adjustment and retraining, veterans' employment
23 and reemployment, intimidation or reprisal, protections
24 under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, occu-
25 pational safety and health, labor-management relations,

1 and rights and protections that apply to employees whose
2 pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate or the
3 Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representa-
4 tives, all employees of the Commission shall be treated as
5 employees whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the
6 Senate or the Chief Administrative Officer of the House
7 of Representatives and the Commission shall be treated
8 as an employing office of the Senate or the House of Rep-
9 resentatives.

10 **SEC. 205. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than May 1 of each
12 year, the Commission shall submit a report to the Presi-
13 dent, the Secretary of State, and Congress setting forth
14 its recommendations for United States policy options
15 based on its evaluations under section 202.

16 (b) CLASSIFIED FORM OF REPORT.—The report may
17 be submitted in classified form, together with a public
18 summary of recommendations, if the classification of in-
19 formation would further the purposes of this Act.

20 (c) INDIVIDUAL OR DISSENTING VIEWS.—Each
21 member of the Commission may include the individual or
22 dissenting views of the member.

23 **SEC. 206. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.**

24 The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)
25 shall not apply to the Commission.

1 **SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
3 priated to the Commission \$3,500,000 for each of the fis-
4 cal years 2017 to 2020 to carry out the provisions of this
5 title.

6 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts authorized
7 to be appropriated under subsection (a) shall remain avail-
8 able until the earlier of—

9 (1) the date on which they have been expended;

10 or

11 (2) the date on which the Commission is termi-
12 nated under section 209.

13 (c) LIMITATION.—In each fiscal year, the Commis-
14 sion shall only be authorized to expend amounts that have
15 been appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) if the Com-
16 mission submits the annual financial report required
17 under section 208(e) to the appropriate congressional
18 committees.

19 **SEC. 208. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DISCLOSURE.**

20 (a) COOPERATION WITH NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGA-
21 NIZATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND CON-
22 GRESS.—The Commission shall seek to effectively and
23 freely cooperate with all entities engaged in the promotion
24 of initiatives relating to the International Decade for Peo-
25 ple of African Descent abroad, governmental and non-

1 governmental, in the performance of the Commission's du-
2 ties under this title.

3 (b) CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND ANTINEPOTISM.—

4 (1) MEMBER AFFILIATIONS.—Except as pro-
5 vided in paragraph (3), in order to ensure the inde-
6 pendence and integrity of the Commission, the Com-
7 mission may not compensate any nongovernmental
8 agency, project, or person related to or affiliated
9 with any member of the Commission, whether in
10 that member's direct employ or not. Staff employed
11 by the Commission may not serve in the employ of
12 any nongovernmental agency, project, or person re-
13 lated to or affiliated with any member of the Com-
14 mission while employed by the Commission.

15 (2) STAFF COMPENSATION.—Staff of the Com-
16 mission may not receive compensation from any
17 other source for work performed in carrying out the
18 duties of the Commission while employed by the
19 Commission.

20 (3) EXCEPTION.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
22 graph (B), paragraph (1) shall not apply to
23 payments made for items such as conference
24 fees or the purchase of periodicals or other
25 similar expenses, if such payments would not

1 cause the aggregate value paid to any agency,
2 project, or person for a fiscal year to exceed
3 \$250.

4 (B) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding sub-
5 paragraph (A), the Commission shall not give
6 special preference to any agency, project, or
7 person related to or affiliated with any member
8 of the Commission.

9 (4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the term
10 “affiliated” means the relationship between a mem-
11 ber of the Commission and—

12 (A) an individual who holds the position of
13 officer, trustee, partner, director, or employee
14 of an agency, project, or person of which that
15 member, or relative of that member of, the
16 Commission is an officer, trustee, partner, di-
17 rector, or employee; or

18 (B) a nongovernmental agency or project
19 of which that member, or a relative of that
20 member, of the Commission is an officer, trust-
21 ee, partner, director, or employee.

22 (c) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Subject to the avail-
23 ability of appropriations, the Commission may contract
24 with and compensate Government agencies or persons for
25 the conduct of activities necessary to the discharge of its

1 functions under this title. Any such person shall be hired
2 without interruption or loss of civil service or Foreign
3 Service status or privilege. The Commission may procure
4 temporary and intermittent services under the authority
5 of section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, except
6 that the Commission may not expend more than \$250,000
7 in any fiscal year to procure such services.

8 (d) GIFTS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to preserve its inde-
10 pendence, the Commission may not accept, use, or
11 dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.
12 An individual Commissioner or employee of the
13 Commission may not, in his or her capacity as a
14 Commissioner or employee, knowingly accept, use or
15 dispose of gifts or donations of services or property,
16 unless he or she in good faith believes such gifts or
17 donations to have a value of less than \$50 and a cu-
18 mulative value during a calendar year of less than
19 \$100.

20 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—This subsection shall not
21 apply to the following:

22 (A) Gifts provided on the basis of a per-
23 sonal friendship with a Commissioner or em-
24 ployee, unless the Commissioner or employee
25 has reason to believe that the gift was provided

1 because of the Commissioner's position and not
2 because of the personal friendship.

3 (B) Gifts provided on the basis of a family
4 relationship.

5 (C) The acceptance of training, invitations
6 to attend or participate in conferences or such
7 other events as are related to the conduct of the
8 duties of the Commission, or food or refresh-
9 ment associated with such activities.

10 (D) Items of nominal value or gifts of esti-
11 mated value of \$10 or less.

12 (E) De minimis gifts provided by a foreign
13 leader or state, not exceeding a value of \$260.
14 Gifts believed by Commissioners to be in excess
15 of \$260, but which would create offense or em-
16 barrasment to the United States Government
17 if refused, shall be accepted and turned over to
18 the United States Government in accordance
19 with the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act of
20 1966 and the rules and regulations governing
21 such gifts provided to Members of Congress.

22 (F) Informational materials such as docu-
23 ments, books, videotapes, periodicals, or other
24 forms of communications.

1 (G) Goods or services provided by any
2 agency or component of the Government of the
3 United States, including any commission estab-
4 lished under the authority of such Government.

5 (e) ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT.—In addition to
6 providing the reports required under section 202, the
7 Commission shall provide, each year no later than January
8 1, to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropria-
9 tions of the House of Representatives, and to the Commit-
10 tees on Foreign Relations and Appropriations of the Sen-
11 ate, a financial report detailing and identifying its expend-
12 itures for the preceding fiscal year.

13 **SEC. 209. TERMINATION.**

14 The Commission shall terminate on September 30,
15 2026.

16 **TITLE III—SPECIAL ADVISER ON**
17 **THE INTERNATIONAL DEC-**
18 **ADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRI-**
19 **CAN DESCENT**

20 **SEC. 301. SPECIAL ADVISER ON THE INTERNATIONAL DEC-**
21 **ADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.**

22 It is the sense of the Congress that—

23 (1) there should be within the Executive Office
24 of the President a Special Adviser to the President
25 on the International Decade for People of African

1 Descent, whose position should be comparable to
2 that of a director within the Executive Office of the
3 President;

4 (2) the Special Adviser should serve as a re-
5 source for executive branch officials, particularly of-
6 ficials in the Department of Education, the Depart-
7 ment of the Treasury, the Department of Justice,
8 and other relevant Federal departments and agen-
9 cies, in compiling and maintaining information on
10 the facts and circumstances of promoting the Inter-
11 national Decade for People of African Descent, and
12 making policy recommendations; and

13 (3) the Special Adviser should serve as liaison
14 with the Ambassador at Large for the International
15 Decade for People of African Descent, the United
16 States Commission on the International Decade for
17 People of African Descent, Congress and, as advis-
18 able, nongovernmental organizations.

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