

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5896

To award a congressional gold medal to the United Negro College Fund, Inc. and the institutions that make up its membership on the occasion of its 80th year of existence.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2023

Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. SEWELL, and Ms. LEE of California) introduced the following bill

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To award a congressional gold medal to the United Negro College Fund, Inc. and the institutions that make up its membership on the occasion of its 80th year of existence.

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 “United Negro College  
5 Fund, Inc. Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Historically Black Colleges and Universities  
2           (referred to in this Act as “HBCUs”) were estab-  
3           lished during a time when African Americans seek-  
4           ing to further their education was a dangerous un-  
5           dertaking and illegal in many areas of the United  
6           States.

7           (2) HBCUs initially educated the progeny of  
8           slaves, and the graduates of those institutions have  
9           been impactful as 80 percent of all African-Amer-  
10          ican judges, 80 percent of all African-American doc-  
11          tors and dentists, 50 percent of all African-American  
12          lawyers, 50 percent of all African-American profes-  
13          sors, 50 percent of all African-American public  
14          school teachers, 40 percent of all African-American  
15          Members of Congress, and 40 percent of all African-  
16          American engineers, while educating only 10 percent  
17          of all African-American students in higher edu-  
18          cation.

19          (3) According to a United Negro College Fund,  
20          Inc. (referred to in this Act as the “UNCF”) study,  
21          the annual economic impact of HBCUs is over  
22          \$14,800,000,000 a year, the institutions generate  
23          134,090 jobs for their local and regional economies,  
24          and 1 annual class of HBCU graduates constitutes  
25          over 50,000 graduates with a lifetime earnings of

1       \$130,000,000,000, 56 percent higher than what they  
2       could have expected to earn without their HBCU  
3       college credentials.

4           (4) The UNCF, established in 1944, is the pre-  
5       miere fundraising and scholarship organization in  
6       assistance of HBCUs and African-American stu-  
7       dents.

8           (5) In its 80 years of existence, the UNCF has  
9       raised over 7,000,000,000 in private donations for  
10      HBCUs and African-American students.

11          (6) On an annual basis, the UNCF awards  
12      \$100,000,000 in scholarships to 10,000 students at  
13      hundreds of colleges and universities.

14          (7) UNCF also provides grants to its members,  
15      which include: Miles College, Oakwood University,  
16      Stillman College, Talladega College, Tuskegee Uni-  
17      versity, Philander Smith College, Bethune-Cookman  
18      University, Edward Waters University, Florida Me-  
19      morial University, Clark Atlanta University,  
20      Interdominational Theological Center, Morehouse  
21      College, Paine College, Spelman College, Dillard  
22      University, Xavier University of Louisiana, Rust  
23      College, Tougaloo College, Bennett College, Johnson  
24      C. Smith University, Livingstone College, Saint Au-  
25      gustine University, Shaw University, Wilberforce

1 University, Allen University, Benedict College,  
2 Claflin University, Morris College, Voorhees College,  
3 Fisk University, Lane College, Huston-Tillotson  
4 University, Jarvis Christian College, Texas College,  
5 Wiley College, and Virginia Union University. The  
6 fundraising efforts of the UNCF also positively im-  
7 pact each HBCU and African-American student at  
8 many non-HBCU institutions.

9 (8) The iconic motto of the UNCF, “A Mind Is  
10 a Terrible Thing To Waste”, is commonly known  
11 throughout the lexicon in the United States and re-  
12 minds us as a nation to strive for our individual full-  
13 est ability and the highest national ideals through  
14 philanthropy and achievement.

15 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

16 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
17 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
18 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
19 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold  
20 medal of appropriate design to the UNCF and the institu-  
21 tions that make up its membership.

22 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the  
23 presentation described in subsection (a), the Secretary of  
24 the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”)

1 shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices,  
2 and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

3 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

4 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
5 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3, at  
6 a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, includ-  
7 ing labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead  
8 expenses.

9 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

10 It is the sense of the Congress that the United States  
11 Mint should expedite production of the gold medal and du-  
12 plicate medals under this Act, so that the UNCF and its  
13 member institutions can be recognized in a timely manner  
14 for its 80th anniversary.

15 **SEC. 6. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

16 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under  
17 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51  
18 of title 31, United States Code.

19 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
20 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals  
21 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic  
22 items.

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
2 **SALE.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is  
4 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
5 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-  
6 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under  
7 this Act.

8 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the  
9 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section  
10 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public  
11 Enterprise Fund.

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