

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4243

To award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 2024

Ms. BUTLER (for herself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

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 “Shirley Chisholm Con-  
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) In 1968, Shirley Chisholm became the first  
2 African-American woman elected to Congress where  
3 she served until 1982.

4           (2) Shirley Chisholm inspired and led the  
5 march of political achievement by African Americans  
6 and women in the 3 decades since she ran for the  
7 Presidency of the United States.

8           (3) Her election to Congress and her candidacy  
9 for the Presidency raised the profile and aspirations  
10 of all African Americans and women in the field of  
11 politics.

12           (4) Shirley Chisholm was recognized for her ac-  
13 tivism, independence, and groundbreaking achieve-  
14 ments in politics during and after the civil rights  
15 era.

16           (5) Shirley Chisholm was born in Brooklyn,  
17 New York, on November 30, 1924, attended Brook-  
18 lyn College, and earned a master's degree from Co-  
19 lumbia University.

20           (6) Shirley Chisholm worked in education and  
21 social services before being elected to the New York  
22 State Assembly in 1964.

23           (7) Shirley Chisholm established the Unity  
24 Democratic Club in 1960, which played a significant

1 role in rallying Black and Hispanic voters in New  
2 York City.

3 (8) In 1969, Shirley Chisholm began her service  
4 in the 91st Congress, representing New York's 12th  
5 Congressional District in the House of Representa-  
6 tives.

7 (9) During her service in the House of Rep-  
8 resentatives, Shirley Chisholm promoted the employ-  
9 ment of women in Congress and was vocal in her  
10 support of civil rights, women's rights, and the poor,  
11 while fervently opposing the Vietnam War.

12 (10) In 1972, Shirley Chisholm was the first  
13 African American to seek the nomination of a major  
14 party for President of the United States.

15 (11) Shirley Chisholm was a co-founder of the  
16 National Organization for Women.

17 (12) A historic figure in American political his-  
18 tory, Shirley Chisholm died at the age of 80 in Or-  
19 mond Beach, Florida, on New Year's Day 2005.

20 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

21 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
22 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
23 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
24 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of the Con-

1 gress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemo-  
2 ration of Shirley Chisholm.

3 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the  
4 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
5 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-  
6 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,  
7 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-  
8 retary. The design shall bear an image of, and an inscrip-  
9 tion of the name of, Shirley Chisholm.

10 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold  
12 medal referred to in subsection (a), the gold medal  
13 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where  
14 it will be displayed as appropriate and made avail-  
15 able for research.

16 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
17 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should  
18 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)  
19 for display elsewhere, particularly at other locations  
20 and events associated with Shirley Chisholm.

21 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

22 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
23 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3, at  
24 a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, includ-

1 ing labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead  
2 expenses.

3 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

4 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this  
5 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title  
6 31, United States Code.

7 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
8 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals  
9 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic  
10 items.

11 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
12 **SALE.**

13 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is  
14 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
15 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-  
16 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under  
17 this Act.

18 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
19 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section  
20 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public  
21 Enterprise Fund.

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