

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4581

To authorize the Homeward Bound Foundation to establish the Middle Passage National Monument.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2000

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN (for herself, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. HILLIARD, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. CLAYTON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. LEE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CLAY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WYNN, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. FORD, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. DIXON, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, and Mr. WATT of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Homeward Bound Foundation to establish the Middle Passage National Monument.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) From the late 1400's to the late 1800's,
6 there existed a slave trade in which millions of peo-

1 ple were transported from Africa to the Americas,
2 including South America, Central America, the Car-
3ibbean, and North America.

4 (2) The journey across the Atlantic Ocean from
5 West Africa to the slave markets of the Americas
6 lasted from a few weeks to several months, and is
7 commonly referred to as the “Middle Passage”.

8 (3) Many of the slaves transported across the
9 Middle Passage became afflicted with diseases, in-
10cluding smallpox, eye infections, gastrointestinal dis-
11orders, and body sores.

12 (4) Approximately 10 to 20 percent of the
13 slaves transported across the Middle Passage died
14 during the journey.

15 (5) Many of these slaves committed suicide by
16 refusing to eat or by drowning themselves.

17 (6) Because slave ship captains had an incen-
18tive to deliver only salable men and women to the
19 slave markets, these captains sometimes committed
20 mass murders of Africans at sea.

21 **SEC. 2. MIDDLE PASSAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT.**

22 (a) **MONUMENT AUTHORIZED.**—The Homeward
23 Bound Foundation (a nonprofit corporation established
24 under the laws of the District of Columbia) is authorized
25 to establish a monument on Federal land in the District

1 of Columbia or its environs to honor the millions of Afri-
2 cans who died in the Middle Passage en route to the Amer-
3 icas and at the hands of transatlantic slave traders be-
4 tween the 15th and 19th centuries. The monument shall
5 be known as the “Middle Passage National Monument”.

6 (b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMO-
7 RATIVE WORKS.—The establishment of the monument
8 shall be carried out in accordance with the Commemora-
9 tive Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

10 (c) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—The Homeward
11 Bound Foundation shall be solely responsible for accept-
12 ance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses
13 of, the establishment of the monument. No Federal funds
14 may be used to pay any expense of the establishment of
15 the monument.

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