

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9519

To designate the month of September as African Diaspora Heritage Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 13, 2022

Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To designate the month of September as African Diaspora
Heritage Month.

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 “African Diaspora Her-
5 itage Month Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the African diaspora population in the
9 United States has grown significantly in recent
10 years, with the number of African immigrants grow-

1 ing at a rate of almost 246 percent from 2000 to
2 2019;

3 (2) the African diaspora community is one of
4 the most diverse communities in the United States,
5 inclusive of people who speak multiple languages,
6 whose rich heritage comes from all across the Afri-
7 can continent, and whose members practice various
8 faiths;

9 (3) during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries,
10 a significant number of enslaved people from Africa
11 were brought to the United States;

12 (4) immigrants of African origin boast some of
13 the highest educational achievements of any immi-
14 grant group;

15 (5) African diaspora households contribute bil-
16 lions of dollars to the economy of the United States,
17 with an estimated \$10,100,000,000 in Federal taxes,
18 \$4,700,000,000 in State and local taxes, and a
19 spending power of more than \$40,300,000,000 in
20 2015;

21 (6) Sub-Saharan African immigrants living in
22 the United States, Europe, and elsewhere sent back
23 \$46,000,000,000 in remittances to the continent of
24 Africa in 2021;

1 (7) Government agencies, including the Inter-
2 national Development Finance Corporation, the De-
3 partment of Commerce, the Department of the
4 Treasury, and the United States Trade Representa-
5 tive are critical to investments and enduring mutual
6 partnerships between the United States and African
7 nations;

8 (8) in 2019, through the African Growth and
9 Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), the
10 United States imported \$8,400,000,000 in goods, up
11 2.4 percent as compared to 2001;

12 (9) Prosper Africa and other similar Govern-
13 ment initiatives are critical to building and strength-
14 ening ties between the United States and African
15 businesses;

16 (10) the total two-way goods trade with Sub-
17 Saharan Africa totaled \$44,900,000,000 in 2021, a
18 22 percent increase from \$36,800,000,000 in 2019;

19 (11) the African diaspora plays an invaluable
20 role in shaping Government policy;

21 (12) members of the African diaspora have an
22 invaluable understanding of cross-cultural engage-
23 ment between the United States and Africa, existing
24 relations and networks on the African continent, and

1 can support efforts to facilitate stronger ties between
2 the United States and Africa;

3 (13) the United States is committed to
4 strengthening the government-to-government rela-
5 tionships between the United States and countries
6 throughout the African continent;

7 (14) Congress strongly supports the United
8 States hosting a second United States-Africa Lead-
9 ers Summit in December 2022, and urges collabora-
10 tion between the Government and the African dias-
11 pora community in the United States in advance,
12 during, and after the Summit as an opportunity to
13 strengthen ties between the United States and Afri-
14 can nations;

15 (15) the African diaspora harbors a deep com-
16 mitment to family and community, an enduring
17 work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and con-
18 tribute to the society of the United States; and

19 (16) all members of the African diaspora in the
20 United States deserve access to Federal resources
21 and a voice in the Government of the United States.

22 **SEC. 3. AFRICAN DIASPORA HERITAGE MONTH.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 36, United
24 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating the second section 146 as
2 section 147; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 **“§ 148. African Diaspora Heritage Month**

5 “The President is requested to issue each year a
6 proclamation calling on the people of the United States,
7 and the chief executive officers of each State of the United
8 States, the District of Columbia, and each territory and
9 possession of the United States are requested to issue each
10 year proclamations calling on the people of their respective
11 jurisdictions, to observe African Diaspora Heritage Month
12 with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.”.

13 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
14 The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 36, United
15 States Code, is amended—

16 (1) by striking the item relating to the second
17 section 146 and inserting the following:

“147. Choose Respect Day.

“148. African Diaspora Heritage Month.”.

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