

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1935

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes Foundation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 1, 2011

Mrs. HAGAN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. AKAKA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes Foundation.

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 “March of Dimes Com-
5 memorative Coin Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) President Franklin Roosevelt’s personal
9 struggle with polio led him to create the National

1 Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (now known as
2 the March of Dimes) on January 3, 1938, at a time
3 when polio was on the rise.

4 (2) The Foundation established patient aid pro-
5 grams and funded research for polio vaccines devel-
6 oped by Jonas Salk, MD, and Albert Sabin, MD.

7 (3) Tested in a massive field trial in 1954 that
8 involved 1.8 million schoolchildren known as “polio
9 pioneers”, the Salk vaccine was licensed for use on
10 April 12, 1955 as “safe, effective, and potent”. The
11 Salk and Sabin polio vaccines funded by the March
12 of Dimes ended the polio epidemic in the United
13 States.

14 (4) With its original mission accomplished, the
15 Foundation turned its focus to preventing birth de-
16 fects, prematurity, and infant mortality in 1958.
17 The Foundation began to fund research into the ge-
18 netic, prenatal, and environmental causes of over
19 3,000 birth defects.

20 (5) The Foundation’s investment in research
21 has led to 13 scientists winning the Nobel Prize
22 since 1954, including Dr. James Watson’s discovery
23 of the double helix.

24 (6) Virginia Apgar, MD, creator of the Apgar
25 Score, helped develop the Foundation’s mission for

1 birth defects prevention; joining the Foundation as
2 the head of its new birth defects division in 1959.

3 (7) In the 1960s, the Foundation created over
4 100 birth defects treatment centers, and then turned
5 its attention to assisting in the development of Neo-
6 natal Intensive Care Units, or NICUs.

7 (8) With March of Dimes support, a Committee
8 on Perinatal Health released *Toward Improving the*
9 *Outcome of Pregnancy* in 1976, which included rec-
10 ommendations that led to the regionalization of
11 perinatal health care in the United States.

12 (9) Since 1998, the March of Dimes has advo-
13 cated for and witnessed the passage of the Birth De-
14 fects Prevention Act, Children's Health Act,
15 PREEMIE Act, and Newborn Screening Save Lives
16 Act.

17 (10) In 2003, the March of Dimes launched a
18 Prematurity Campaign to increase awareness about
19 and reduce the incidence of preterm birth, infant
20 mortality, birth defects, and lifelong disabilities and
21 disorders.

22 (11) The March of Dimes actively promotes
23 programs for and funds research into newborn
24 screening, pulmonary surfactant therapy, maternal
25 nutrition, smoking cessation, folic acid consumption

1 to prevent neural tube defects, increased access to
2 maternity care, and similar programs to improve
3 maternal and infant health.

4 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

5 (a) \$1 SILVER COINS.—In recognition and celebra-
6 tion of the founding and proud service of the March of
7 Dimes, the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this
8 Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue
9 not more than 500,000 \$1 coins, which shall—

- 10 (1) weigh 26.73 grams;
11 (2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
12 (3) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent
13 copper.

14 (b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this
15 Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of
16 title 31, United States Code.

17 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
18 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins
19 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-
20 matic items.

21 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

22 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

- 23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins
24 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the
25 mission and programs of the March of Dimes, and

1 its distinguished record of generating Americans'
2 support to protect our children's health.

3 (2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On
4 each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

5 (A) a designation of the value of the coin;

6 (B) an inscription of the year “2014”; and

7 (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,
8 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-
9 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

10 (b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted
11 under this Act shall—

12 (1) contain motifs that represent the past,
13 present, and future of the March of Dimes and its
14 role as champion for all babies, such designs to be
15 consistent with the traditions and heritage of the
16 March of Dimes;

17 (2) be selected by the Secretary, after consulta-
18 tion with the March of Dimes and the Commission
19 of Fine Arts; and

20 (3) be reviewed by the Citizens Coin Advisory
21 Committee.

22 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE.**

23 (a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this
24 Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

1 (b) MINT FACILITY.—For the coins minted under
2 this Act, at least 1 facility of the United States Mint shall
3 be used to strike proof quality coins, while at least 1 other
4 such facility shall be used to strike the uncirculated qual-
5 ity coins.

6 (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary of the
7 Treasury may issue coins minted under this Act only dur-
8 ing the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2014.

9 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

10 (a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act
11 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum
12 of—

13 (1) the face value of the coins;

14 (2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with
15 respect to such coins; and

16 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins
17 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,
18 overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

19 (b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk
20 sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable
21 discount.

22 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept
24 prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act
25 before the issuance of such coins.

1 (2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to pre-
2 paid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a rea-
3 sonable discount.

4 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins minted under
6 this Act shall include a surcharge of \$10 per coin.

7 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
8 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
9 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
10 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the March of
11 Dimes to help finance research, education, and services
12 aimed at improving the health of women, infants, and chil-
13 dren.

14 (c) AUDITS.—The March of Dimes shall be subject
15 to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31,
16 United States Code, with regard to the amounts received
17 under subsection (b).

18 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
19 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
20 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
21 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin
22 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-
23 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual 2
24 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under

- 1 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code. The
- 2 Secretary may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

○