

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To direct the President to designate a month as African Diaspora Heritage Month.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To direct the President to designate a month 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 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the African diaspora population in the
9 United States has grown significantly in recent

1 years, with the number of African immigrants grow-
2 ing at a rate of almost 246 percent from 2000 to
3 2019;

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

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

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

16 (5) African diaspora households contribute bil-
17 lions of dollars to the economy of the United States,
18 with an estimated \$10,100,000,000 in Federal taxes,
19 \$4,700,000,000 in State and local taxes, and a
20 spending power of more than \$40,300,000,000 in
21 2015;

22 (6) Sub-Saharan African immigrants living in
23 the United States, Europe, and elsewhere sent back
24 \$46,000,000,000 in remittances to the continent of
25 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 2021, through the African Growth and
9 Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), the
10 United States imported \$6,700,000,000 in goods;

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

15 (10) the total two-way goods trade with Sub-
16 Saharan Africa totaled \$44,800,000,000 in 2021, a
17 21.8 percent increase from \$36,700,000,000 in
18 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 hosting of
8 the second United States-Africa Leaders Summit by
9 the United States, which was held in December
10 2022, to boost collaboration between the Govern-
11 ment and the African diaspora community in the
12 United States, and to strengthen ties between the
13 United States and African nations by bringing to-
14 gether approximately 49 African heads of state;

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;

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 (17) the United States is committed to
23 strengthening the dialogue between the African dias-
24 pora and Government officials through the creation

1 of the President’s Advisory Council on African Dias-
2 pora Engagement in the United States; and

3 (18) the African diaspora community signifi-
4 cantly contributes to the growth and prosperity of
5 the United States, and Congress honors this abun-
6 dant and growing community.

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

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

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

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

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

14 “The President shall issue each year a proclama-
15 tion—

16 “(1) designating a month as African Diaspora
17 Heritage Month;

18 “(2) calling on State and local governments and
19 the people of the United States to observe African
20 Diaspora Heritage Month with appropriate pro-
21 grams and activities; and

22 “(3) urging civil and educational authorities of
23 States and local governments to observe African Di-
24 aspora Heritage Month through appropriate pro-
25 grams and activities.”.

1 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

2 The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 36, United

3 States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to

4 the second section 146 and inserting the following:

“147. Choose Respect Day.

“148. African Diaspora Heritage Month.”.