

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5006

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “African Diaspora Her-
3 itage Month Act of 2022”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds that—

6 (1) the African diaspora population in the
7 United States has grown significantly in recent
8 years, with the number of African immigrants grow-
9 ing at a rate of almost 246 percent from 2000 to
10 2019;

11 (2) the African diaspora community is one of
12 the most diverse communities in the United States,
13 inclusive of people who speak multiple languages,
14 whose rich heritage comes from all across the Afri-
15 can continent, and whose members practice various
16 faiths;

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

20 (4) immigrants of African origin boast some of
21 the highest educational achievements of any immi-
22 grant group;

23 (5) African diaspora households contribute bil-
24 lions of dollars to the economy of the United States,
25 with an estimated \$10,100,000,000 in Federal taxes,
26 \$4,700,000,000 in State and local taxes, and a

1 spending power of more than \$40,300,000,000 in
2 2015;

3 (6) Sub-Saharan African immigrants living in
4 the United States, Europe, and elsewhere sent back
5 \$46,000,000,000 in remittances to the continent of
6 Africa in 2021;

7 (7) Government agencies, including the Inter-
8 national Development Finance Corporation, the De-
9 partment of Commerce, the Department of the
10 Treasury, and the United States Trade Representa-
11 tive are critical to investments and enduring mutual
12 partnerships between the United States and African
13 nations;

14 (8) in 2019, through the African Growth and
15 Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), the
16 United States imported \$8,400,000,000 in goods, up
17 2.4 percent as compared to 2001;

18 (9) Prosper Africa and other similar Govern-
19 ment initiatives are critical to building and strength-
20 ening ties between the United States and African
21 businesses;

22 (10) the total two-way goods trade with Sub-
23 Saharan Africa totaled \$44,900,000,000 in 2021, a
24 22 percent increase from \$36,800,000,000 in 2019;

1 (11) the African diaspora plays an invaluable
2 role in shaping Government policy;

3 (12) members of the African diaspora have an
4 invaluable understanding of cross-cultural engage-
5 ment between the United States and Africa, existing
6 relations and networks on the African continent, and
7 can support efforts to facilitate stronger ties between
8 the United States and Africa;

9 (13) the United States is committed to
10 strengthening the government-to-government rela-
11 tionships between the United States and countries
12 throughout the African continent;

13 (14) Congress strongly supports the United
14 States hosting a second United States-Africa Lead-
15 ers Summit in December 2022, and urges collabora-
16 tion between the Government and the African dias-
17 pora community in the United States in advance,
18 during, and after the Summit as an opportunity to
19 strengthen ties between the United States and Afri-
20 can nations;

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

1 (16) all members of the African diaspora in the
2 United States deserve access to Federal resources
3 and a voice in the Government of the United States.

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

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

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

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

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

11 “(a) DESIGNATION.—September is African Diaspora
12 Heritage Month.

13 “(b) PROCLAMATIONS.—The President is requested
14 to issue each year a proclamation calling on the people
15 of the United States, and the chief executive officers of
16 each State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
17 and each territory and possession of the United States are
18 requested to issue each year proclamations calling on the
19 people of their respective jurisdictions, to observe African
20 Diaspora Heritage Month with appropriate programs,
21 ceremonies, and activities.”.

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

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

“147. Choose Respect Day.

“148. African Diaspora Heritage Month.”.

Passed the Senate December 13, 2022.

Attest:

Secretary.

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