

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5451

To designate a month as African Diaspora Heritage Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

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

A BILL

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
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 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. DESIGNATION OF AFRICAN DIASPORA HERITAGE**
8 **MONTH.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(3) urging civil and educational authorities of
24 States, counties, cities, and towns to observe African

1 Diaspora Heritage Month through appropriate pro-
2 grams and activities.”.

3 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

4 The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 36, United
5 States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to
6 the second section 146 and inserting the following:

“147. Choose Respect Day.

“148. African Diaspora Heritage Month.”.

