

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 634

To develop and disseminate a civic education curriculum and oral history resources regarding certain political ideologies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 2, 2023

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To develop and disseminate a civic education curriculum and oral history resources regarding certain political ideologies, and for other purposes.

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 “Crucial Communism
5 Teaching Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are the following:

8 (1) To help families, civic institutions, local
9 communities, local educational agencies, high

1 schools, and State educational agencies to prepare
 2 high school students to be civically responsible and
 3 knowledgeable adults.

4 (2) To ensure that high school students in the
 5 United States—

6 (A) learn that communism has led to the
 7 deaths of more than 100,000,000 victims world-
 8 wide;

9 (B) understand the dangers of communism
 10 and similar political ideologies; and

11 (C) understand that 1,500,000,000 people
 12 still suffer under communism.

13 **SEC. 3. DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF CIVIC EDU-**
 14 **CATION CURRICULUM AND ORAL HISTORY**
 15 **RESOURCES.**

16 The independent entity created under section
 17 905(b)(1)(B) of the FRIENDSHIP Act (Public Law 103–
 18 199; 107 Stat. 2331), also known as the “Victims of Com-
 19 munism Memorial Foundation”, shall—

20 (1) develop a civic education curriculum for
 21 high school students that—

22 (A) includes a comparative discussion of
 23 certain political ideologies, including com-
 24 munism and totalitarianism, that conflict with
 25 the principles of freedom and democracy that

1 are essential to the founding of the United
2 States;

3 (B) is accurate, relevant, and accessible, so
4 as to promote the understanding of such polit-
5 ical ideologies; and

6 (C) is compatible with a variety of courses,
7 including social studies, government, history,
8 and economics classes;

9 (2) develop oral history resources that may be
10 used alongside the curriculum described in para-
11 graph (1) and that include personal stories, titled
12 “Portraits in Patriotism”, from diverse individuals
13 who—

14 (A) demonstrate civic-minded qualities;

15 (B) are victims of the political ideologies
16 described in paragraph (1)(A); and

17 (C) are able to compare the political
18 ideologies described in paragraph (1)(A) with
19 the political ideology of the United States; and

20 (3) engage with State and local educational
21 leaders to assist high schools in using the curriculum
22 described in paragraph (1) and the resources de-
23 scribed in paragraph (2).

1 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

2 The terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and
3 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801) shall
4 apply to this Act.

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