

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To establish requirements for patriotic observances in elementary and
secondary schools of the District of Columbia.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. MOODY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish requirements for patriotic observances in elementary and secondary schools of the District of Columbia.

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 “Promoting Loyalty,
5 Engagement, Duty, and Gratitude in Education Act” or
6 the “PLEDGE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PATRIOTIC OBSERVANCES IN DISTRICT OF COLUM-**
2 **BIA SCHOOLS.**

3 (a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “District
4 of Columbia school” means an elementary school or sec-
5 ondary school in the District of Columbia.

6 (b) **FLAG.**—Each District of Columbia school shall
7 cause the flag of the United States of America to be dis-
8 played in each classroom during the hours of each school
9 day.

10 (c) **NATIONAL ANTHEM.**—When the national anthem
11 is played in a District of Columbia school, each student
12 or civilian shall stand at attention.

13 (d) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**—

14 (1) **MANNER OF RECITATION.**—When the
15 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag (in this subsection
16 referred to as the “Pledge”), “I pledge allegiance to
17 the flag of the United States of America, and to the
18 Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God,
19 indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”, is re-
20 cited in a District of Columbia school, each student
21 shall recite the Pledge while standing with the right
22 hand over the heart.

23 (2) **DAILY RECITATION.**—The Pledge shall be
24 recited at the beginning of the day in each District
25 of Columbia school.

26 (3) **OPT-OUT WITH PARENTAL CONSENT.**—

1 (A) NOTICE TO STUDENTS.—A District of
2 Columbia school shall inform each student by a
3 written notice published in the student hand-
4 book or a similar publication that the student
5 has the right not to participate in reciting the
6 Pledge, subject to the requirements of this sub-
7 section.

8 (B) WRITTEN REQUEST FROM PARENT.—
9 Upon written request by the parent of a stu-
10 dent, a District of Columbia school shall excuse
11 the student from reciting the Pledge, including
12 from standing and placing the right hand over
13 the heart.

14 (4) NO DISRUPTION OR DISTRACTION.—No stu-
15 dent may make any display that disrupts or dis-
16 tracts other students who are reciting the Pledge in
17 a District of Columbia school.

18 (5) ACCOMMODATIONS.—A District of Columbia
19 school shall make a reasonable modification, under
20 title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of
21 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.), for any student
22 who is unable to comply because of a disability (as
23 defined in section 3 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 12102))
24 with the procedures under this subsection.