

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4003

To prohibit any regulations on the singing of the National Anthem on any Federal property.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. FRY, Ms. MACE, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. DUNCAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prohibit any regulations on the singing of the National Anthem on any Federal property.

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 “Let Freedom Sing
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Singing of the National Anthem is an offi-
2 cially recognized national unity ritual. Inspired by
3 the sight of the American flag still waving at Fort
4 McHenry after 25 hours of continual bombardment
5 by British forces, Francis Scott Key wrote the words
6 of the Star-Spangled Banner in 1814. In 1931, Con-
7 gress declared that the Star-Spangled Banner is the
8 national anthem of the United States in section 301
9 of title 36, United States Code.

10 (2) Recognizing that the First Amendment
11 states “Congress shall make no law . . . abridging
12 the freedom of speech”.

13 (3) Further recognizes that singing the Na-
14 tional Anthem is an ultimate demonstration of free-
15 dom of speech, and any restrictions placed upon
16 singing the National Anthem in a means that is non-
17 disruptive would be a violation of the First Amend-
18 ment.

19 (4) Continues that Federal properties such as
20 the U.S. Capitol should be included as “traditional
21 public forums” and that singing the National An-
22 them in public spaces which does not interfere with
23 the operation of the Federal Government’s official
24 business shall not be viewed as a form of protest.

1 (5) Recognizes that specific spaces in the U.S.
2 Capitol such as National Statuary Hall are a part
3 of the shared American heritage, and access to these
4 spaces for national unity rituals shall not be limited,
5 as singing the National Anthem is not a form of dis-
6 ruptive protest.

7 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to pro-
8 tect and to preserve national unity and freedom of speech
9 guaranteeing that the right to sing the National Anthem
10 in federally owned public spaces such as the U.S. Capitol
11 shall not be restricted for any purposes, when the actions
12 do not interfere with the operation of the Federal Govern-
13 ment.

14 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION.**

15 (a) PROHIBITION.—

16 (1) Prohibits musical performances from being
17 listed as an activity requiring permits from U.S.
18 Capitol Police or the Sergeant at Arms for activities
19 in the U.S. Capitol.

20 (2) Overrules D.C. Code § 22–1307 with exclu-
21 sive regard to the U.S. Capitol to ensure that in
22 public spaces within the U.S. Capitol, specifically
23 National Statuary Hall, where it does not interfere
24 with the flow of official business it is lawful to sing
25 the National Anthem without prior authorization

1 being required and that it shall not be considered a
2 form of unpermitted protest.

3 (3) Places the sole discretion to limit musical
4 performances in the Capitol on the Speaker of the
5 House and President of the Senate, to be exercised
6 at a shared discretion only to permit official business
7 to continue uninterrupted.

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