

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 948

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Li Wenliang, in recognition of his efforts to save lives by drawing awareness to COVID–19 and his call for transparency in China.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Mr. ROY (for himself and Mr. BABIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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 posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Li Wenliang, in recognition of his efforts to save lives by drawing awareness to COVID–19 and his call for transparency in China.

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 “Dr. Li Wenliang Con-
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Dr. Li Wenliang was a 34-year-old ophthal-
2 mologist in Wuhan, China, who died from COVID-
3 19 after he bravely sought to draw attention to the
4 spread of the virus despite the Government of the
5 People’s Republic of China and the Chinese Com-
6 munist Party’s effort to suppress him.

7 (2) In December 2019, Dr. Li Wenliang coura-
8 geously notified his medical colleagues in China
9 about the outbreak of a novel coronavirus known as
10 COVID-19.

11 (3) On January 3, 2020, after raising concerns
12 about the spread of COVID-19, Dr. Li Wenliang
13 was detained and questioned by Chinese officials for
14 “spreading false rumors” and forced to sign a state-
15 ment retracting his warnings about COVID-19.

16 (4) Dr. Li Wenliang continued to work at
17 Wuhan Central Hospital despite his knowledge of
18 the outbreak.

19 (5) Tragically Dr. Li Wenliang died in Feb-
20 ruary 2020 in the hospital where he worked after
21 contracting COVID-19.

22 (6) Before his death, Dr. Li Wenliang stated,
23 “If the officials had disclosed information about the
24 epidemic earlier, I think it would have been a lot

1 better. There should be more openness and trans-
2 parency.”.

3 (7) The people of China expressed their grief
4 and anger on social media after the death of Dr. Li
5 Wenliang with the phrase “I want freedom of
6 speech”, which was quickly censored by the Govern-
7 ment of the People’s Republic of China and the Chi-
8 nese Communist Party.

9 (8) The People’s Republic of China and the
10 Chinese Communist Party inflicted incalculable dam-
11 age on their people and the world by trying to extin-
12 guish the news of the COVID–19 rather than mobi-
13 lize global efforts to battle it.

14 (9) Awarding Dr. Li Wenliang the Congres-
15 sional Gold Medal would recognize his bold actions
16 to draw attention to the spread of COVID–19 and
17 call global attention to the People’s Republic of
18 China and the Chinese Communist Party’s lack of
19 transparency and censorship of speech.

20 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

21 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
22 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
23 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
24 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of the Con-
25 gress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemo-

1 ration of Dr. Li Wenliang’s efforts to save lives by drawing
2 awareness to COVID–19 and his call for transparency in
3 China.

4 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
5 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
6 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
7 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
8 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
9 retary. The design shall bear an image of and the name
10 of Dr. Li Wenliang.

11 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
13 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal
14 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where
15 it shall be available for display as appropriate and
16 made available for research.

17 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
18 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution shall
19 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
20 available for display elsewhere, particularly at appro-
21 priate locations dedicated to preserving the history
22 of the Chinese pro-democracy movement.

23 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

24 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
25 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3, at

1 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
2 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

3 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

4 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
5 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
6 51 of title 31, United States Code.

7 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
8 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
9 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
10 items.

11 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
12 **SALE.**

13 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
14 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
15 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
16 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
17 this Act.

18 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
19 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
20 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
21 Enterprise Fund.

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