



Partnership for the  
American Historical Record

## Action Alert: Contact your Congressman

From: Kathleen Roe  
Sent: June 02, 2008  
Subject: PAHR Update and plea for more help

We've reached an important milestone with the Preserving the American Historical Record effort by getting a bill number, **HR 6056**. We've asked you before to work with your administration, your State Historical Records Advisory Board and your constituents to contact your members of the House of Representatives urging them to sign on as co-sponsors for the bill. Many thanks for all you've done on this so far!

But we indeed have "miles to go" before we are done, so we are asking you to reach out again to your members of the House of Representatives. In order for the bill to be taken seriously and brought forward for mark-up in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, we need to have at least 50 co-sponsors. At this time, we have 14 members who have signed on to sponsor the bill. They are: Prime sponsors: Maurice Hinchey, D-NY and Chris Cannon, R-UT, Co-sponsors: Tammy Baldwin, D-WI; Sanford Bishop, R-GA; Joseph Crowley, D-NY; Eliot Engel, D-NY; Steve Israel, D-NY; Sheila Jackson Lee, D-TX; Carolyn Maloney, D-NY; Jim McDermott, D-WA; James McGovern, D-MA; John McHugh, R-NY; Jerrold Nadler, D-NY; Edolphus Towns, D-NY.

If your representative's name is not among that list, please contact them again and ask your constituents to do so as well. They should tell their member the bill number (some members have indicated they were waiting for that), and urge them to sign on as a co-sponsor by calling either (if they are a Democrat) Anne Georges in Rep. Hinchey's office at 202-225-6335 or (if they are a Republican) Matt Iandoli in Rep. Cannon's office at 202-225-7751.

It will help if you can find a local government official (the County Commissioners for example, are really interested in this) or a user (here, the genealogists have been really active) who can and will make a direct call to the regional or Washington DC office, or best of all will visit, that makes a great difference.

Honestly, I've done around 10 visits so far, and people have been quite receptive and 8 signed on pretty quickly. They see this as a non-partisan issue, of which there are few these days. And a stunning number of member offices have historic posters, pictures of Lincoln, Kennedy, other presidents on their walls. Many of the staff, though really young (I think Congress is being run

by 25 year olds), were interested in history and government and really chatty and positive. Just tell them a good story from your region, and how having money in your state will help their constituents. The personal connection really seems to help, so call or visit if you can, or get your enthusiastic constituents to do it. Please!!!

Don't worry about overkill. They expect people to be advocating for programs, and the staff spend a lot of time fielding calls, meeting with constituents, and taking in the email, faxes and letters. If they haven't signed on, they are fair game. So again, please make contact soon to urge your member to become a co-sponsor. This bill can make a big difference for all of our states. Our colleagues and our collections deserve it.

If you need copies of anything relating to PAHR, the updated version of the bill, complete with bill number and sponsors, background information, and letter samples are all on the web at: [www.archivists.org/pahr](http://www.archivists.org/pahr)

Feel free to call any of us on the PAHR task force if you need help, have questions, or are ready to deliver that Congress member!

Thanks again for your efforts. We're doing incredibly well, and the only thing that will stop us is if we stop!

Kathleen (for the PAHR Task Force)

CoSA representatives: David Carmicheal, Karl Niedere r, Vicki Walch, Kathleen Roe NAGARA  
representatives: Tracy Berezansky, Jelain Chubb SAA representatives: Ben Primer, Steve Hensen, Nancy Beaumont

Contact us at: PAHR Joint Task Force [pahr@statearchivists.org](mailto:pahr@statearchivists.org)