

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 89

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN
District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to pass legislation to remove Confederate statues in US Capitol building.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to pass
2 legislation requiring the removal of Confederate statues in the
3 United States Capitol building.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, There are few places in the United States where symbols
6 of the country’s history are more prominently on display and in
7 greater abundance than the nation’s capital of Washington, D.C.;
8 and
9 **WHEREAS**, The National Statuary Hall Collection, established in 1864,
10 was created with the goal of honoring important historical figures in
11 United States history; and
12 **WHEREAS**, Each state is encouraged to contribute two statues, subject
13 to approval by the state legislature and governor, to the Capitol’s
14 National Statuary Hall Collection; and
15 **WHEREAS**, There are currently eleven statues of individuals who
16 served in the Confederacy on display in the Capitol complex with
17 some, such as Confederate President Jefferson Davis, located just
18 steps from the House chamber; and
19 **WHEREAS**, There have been calls over the years to remove these
20 statues, but such calls have led only to various rearrangements of
21 statues within the collection; and
22 **WHEREAS**, In conjunction with protests over police brutality, existing
23 legislative action taken to remove Confederate portraits in the
24 Capitol, and steps taken to rename military installations that are
25 currently named after Confederates, lawmakers and American
26 citizens have renewed calls to remove Confederate statues from the
27 U.S. Capitol building; and
28 **WHEREAS**, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has led these renewed calls
29 for removal of the Confederate statues at the Capitol, and
30 Democratic leaders Barbara Lee and Bennie Thompson introduced
31 legislation in furtherance of this goal; and
32 **WHEREAS**, The introduced legislation, H.R. 7217, aims to remove all
33 statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States
34 of America from display in the United States Capitol within 120
35 days, with the statues then being either reclaimed by the individual
36 states or given to the Smithsonian museums; and
37 **WHEREAS**, Those who committed treason against the United States,
38 and lead the nation into its most painful and bloody war to preserve
39 the institution of slavery, are not patriots and should not be afforded
40 the honor of having their images on display in the United States
41 Capitol; now, therefore,
42
43 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*
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45 1. This House urges the United States Congress to pass
46 legislation requiring the removal of Confederate statues in the
47 United States Capitol building.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United State Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and every member of Congress elected from this State.

STATEMENT

This resolution urges Congress to pass legislation requiring the removal of all Confederate statues in the United States Capitol building.

There are few places in the United States where symbols of the country's history are more prominently on display and in greater abundance than the nation's capital of Washington, D.C.. The National Statuary Hall Collection, established in 1864, was created with the goal of honoring important historical figures in United States history. Each state is encouraged to contribute two statues, subject to approval by the state legislature and governor, to the Capitol's National Statuary Hall Collection. There are currently eleven statues of individuals who served in the Confederacy on display in the Capitol complex with some, such as Confederate President Jefferson Davis, located just steps from the House chamber.

There have been calls over the years to remove these statues, but such calls have led only to various rearrangement of statues within the collection. In conjunction with protests over police brutality, existing legislative action taken to remove Confederate portraits in the Capitol, and steps taken to rename military installations that are currently named after Confederates, lawmakers and American citizens have renewed calls to remove Confederate statues from the U.S. Capitol building. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has led these renewed calls for removal of the Confederate statues at the Capitol, and Democratic leaders Barbara Lee and Bennie Thompson introduced legislation in furtherance of this goal. The introduced legislation, H.R. 7217, aims to remove all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the United States Capitol within 120 days, with the statues then being either reclaimed by the individual states or given to the Smithsonian museums.

Those who committed treason against the United States, and lead the nation into its most painful and bloody war to preserve the institution of slavery, are not patriots and should not be afforded the honor of having their images on display in the United States Capitol.