

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3371

To designate the Museum of the Blind People’s Movement in Baltimore, Maryland, as the “National Museum of the Blind People’s Movement”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 4, 2025

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate the Museum of the Blind People’s Movement in Baltimore, Maryland, as the “National Museum of the Blind People’s Movement”.

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 “National Museum of
5 the Blind People’s Movement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE**
7 **BLIND PEOPLE’S MOVEMENT.**

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

1 (1) Equal treatment under the law and equal
2 access to all the rights, privileges, and protections of
3 the Constitution are core tenets of the philosophy of
4 the United States of America.

5 (2) Those noble and lofty ideals have not al-
6 ways been met throughout the course of this coun-
7 try's shared national history and its movement to-
8 ward a more perfect Union.

9 (3) People with disabilities have faced unique
10 challenges pertaining to accessibility and civil rights.

11 (4) Blind individuals have experienced systemic
12 discrimination and low expectations but, despite
13 these barriers, have historically made significant
14 contributions to society which have often gone
15 underrecognized.

16 (5) Blind people self-organized on a national
17 basis in 1940 to establish the National Federation
18 of the Blind which has served as a vehicle for collec-
19 tive action by the blind themselves to raise expecta-
20 tions in society.

21 (6) The National Federation of the Blind has
22 served as the model and inspiration for the develop-
23 ment of blind-led organizations the world over and
24 sparked the creation of the International Federation

1 of the Blind which later became part of the World
2 Blind Union.

3 (7) Throughout the course of its eight-decade
4 crusade to ensure the full integration of the blind
5 into society on the basis of equality, the National
6 Federation of the Blind has acquired innumerable
7 artifacts, documents, and literature detailing the in-
8 dividual and collective accomplishments and strug-
9 gles of blind people and how those individuals have
10 contributed to the broader American society.

11 (8) The United States has no cultural institu-
12 tion that centers the experience of blind people and
13 elevates the understanding of how those individuals
14 have worked together to improve society and to
15 change the negative misconceptions about the blind
16 in the Nation and around the world.

17 (9) The National Federation of the Blind has
18 chosen to commit to the collection, preservation, and
19 curation of this history through the Museum of the
20 Blind People's Movement located inside the National
21 Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute in Balti-
22 more, Maryland.

23 (10) This will be the first museum owned and
24 operated by the blind of America.

1 (11) The museum, as well as the existing ar-
2 chive which is currently available to researchers, will
3 serve as a national platform to explore the struggles
4 and successes of the blind as individuals, as collec-
5 tives, and as a movement. and to encourage under-
6 standing of the past, and facilitate awareness and
7 evoke dialogue in the present, while inspiring re-
8 spect, determination, and action for an equitable fu-
9 ture.

10 (b) DESIGNATION.—The museum known as the Mu-
11 seum of the Blind People’s Movement, located at 200 East
12 Wells Street in Baltimore, Maryland, is designated as the
13 “National Museum of the Blind People’s Movement”.

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