116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S.______

To prohibit Federal funds from being made available to teach the 1619 Project curriculum in elementary schools and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. COTTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on __________________

A BILL

To prohibit Federal funds from being made available to teach the 1619 Project curriculum in elementary schools and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

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 “Saving American His-
5 tory Act of 2020”.
6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
7 Congress finds the following:
(1) The true date of America’s founding is July 4, 1776, the day the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress.

(2) The self-evident truths set forth by that Declaration are the fundamental principles upon which America was founded.

(3) An activist movement is now gaining momentum to deny or obfuscate this history by claiming that America was not founded on the ideals of the Declaration but rather on slavery and oppression.

(4) This distortion of American history is being taught to children in public school classrooms via the New York Times’ “1619 Project”, which claims that “nearly everything that has truly made America exceptional” grew “out of slavery”.

(5) The 1619 Project is a racially divisive and revisionist account of history that threatens the integrity of the Union by denying the true principles on which it was founded.

(6) The Federal Government has a strong interest in promoting an accurate account of the Nation’s history through public schools and forming young people into knowledgeable and patriotic citizens.
SEC. 3. PROHIBITION OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS TO TEACH THE 1619 PROJECT CURRICULUM.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) ESEA.—The terms “elementary school”, “local educational agency”, and “secondary school” have the meanings given the terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(2) Secretary.—The term “Secretaries” means the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(b) Prohibition of Use of Federal Funding for 1619 Project.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds shall be used by any—

(1) elementary school or secondary school to teach the 1619 Project initiative of the New York Times in such school; or

(2) local educational agency to support the teaching of the 1619 Project initiative of the New York Times in the public schools served by such agency.

(c) Prohibition on Federal Professional Development Funds for Schools That Teach the 1619 Project.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an elementary school or secondary school that teaches
the 1619 Project initiative of the New York Times in such
school or a local educational agency that supports the
teaching of the 1619 Project initiative of the New York
Times in the public schools served by such agency shall
not receive any Federal funding for professional develop-
ment.

(d) Determination of Cost and Reduction in
Federal Funds.—

(1) In General.—In the case of an elementary
school or secondary school that receives Federal
funds and teaches the 1619 Project initiative of the
New York Times in such school or a local edu-
cational agency that supports the teaching of the
1619 Project initiative of the New York Times in
the public schools served by such agency, the Secre-
taries shall determine the cost associated with teach-
ing the 1619 Project, including in planning time and
teaching time.

(2) Reductions.—The Secretaries, based on
coordinated prorated formulas established by the
Secretaries, shall reduce Federal funds provided to
an elementary school, secondary school, or local edu-
cational agency described in paragraph (1) in an
amount equal to the cost amount determined under
paragraph (1).
(3) NO REDUCTION FOR CERTAIN FUNDS.—In reducing Federal funds to an elementary school, secondary school, or local educational agency under paragraph (2), the Secretaries shall not reduce Federal funds for—

(A) the free and reduced price school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), or any other program for low-income students; or

(B) students with disabilities.

(e) FUTURE FUNDING.—The Secretaries shall promulgate regulations to ensure that Federal funds provided after the date of enactment of this Act to an elementary school, secondary school, or local educational agency comply with the requirements and restrictions provided under this Act.