

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
August 10, 2009  
Austin, Texas**

**Partnership for the American Historical Record – H.R. 2256  
(Prepared by: Sue Hodson, Joint Advocacy Task Force on PAHR)**

The PAHR bill was introduced in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress by the co-sponsors, Representatives Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and John McHugh (R-NY). The bill, H.R. 2256, has been assigned to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

**THE BILL**

[PAHR](#) - A copy of the bill.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

[Background Information](#) – A 1-page document that makes the case for supporting the legislation.

[How Much to Each State?](#) – A PDF document that details the specific amount of funding to your state if the bill is authorized and appropriated at the proposed level of \$50 million.

[Brochure](#) – Use some or all of the ideas presented here when advocating for co-sponsorship or passage of the proposed legislation.

**RESOURCES**

[Draft Letter](#) – Take the opportunity to thank your Representative for co-sponsoring the 2008 PAHR bill and ask for support for the 2009 bill.

[Draft Letter to Prospective Co-sponsors for 2009](#) – A letter that you can customize and then fax (preferred), email, or send to your members of Congress. During recesses, you could send the letter to the district office.

[Draft Resolution](#) - Language your organization can use and adapt to endorse PAHR.

[Sponsors](#) –A list of Members of the House who have agreed to lead and so-sponsor the PAHR bill.

[Key Members](#) – A list of Members of the House and Senate who serve on the committees and subcommittees that will be taking up the legislation.

[Your Representative](#) – Follow these easy steps to find your U.S. Representative, then send a message today:

Go to <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

Under "To contact your Representative," select your state and enter your zip code in the boxes provided, then click the "Contact My Representative" button.

Follow the instructions on your Representative's personal page about how to send an email or fax.

Be sure to include the following in your appeal:

Ask him/her to support the Preserving the American Historical Record bill.

Tell your Representative how you will benefit from better preservation of and access to historical records in your community, your state, and the nation.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

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Joint Task Force on PAHR  
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## **PARTNERS**

[Council of State Archivists](#) (CoSA)  
[Society of American Archivists](#) (SAA)  
[National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators](#) (NAGARA)

## **SPONSORS:**

Head Sponsors:  
Maurice Hinchey (D-NY)  
John McHugh (R-NY)

Co-sponsors:  
Gary Ackerman (D-NY)  
Michael Arcuri (D-NY)  
John Barrow (D-GA)  
Shelley Berkley (D-NV)  
Joseph Crowley (D-NY)  
Eliot Engel (D-NY)  
Chaka Fattah (D-PA)  
Jim Gerlach (R-PA)  
Charles Gonzalez (D-TX)  
Bart Gordon (D-TN)  
Steve Israel (D-NY)  
Timothy V. Johnson (R-IL)  
David Loebsack (D-IA)  
Nita Lowey (D-NY)  
Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)  
James McGovern (D-MA)  
Jim Moran (D-VA)  
Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)  
Todd Platts (R-PA)  
Ted Poe (R-TX)  
Tim Ryan (D-OH)  
Louise Slaughter (D-NY)  
Paul Tonko (D-NY)  
Charlie Wilson (D-OH)

## **ENDORSED BY:**

American Association for State and Local History  
American Historical Association  
American Library Association  
American Political Science Association  
Archivists of Central Texas  
Archivists of Religious Institutions  
Association of Public Historians of New York State  
Capital Area Archivists (NY)  
Charleston Archives, Libraries and Museums Council  
(CALM)  
[Chief Officers of State Library Agencies](#)  
Consortium of Iowa Archivists  
Delaware Valley Archives Group  
[The Generations Network](#)  
Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History  
[Heritage Preservation](#)  
History Associates  
The History Channel  
[International Institute of Municipal Clerks](#)  
Kentucky Council of Archives  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference  
Midwest Archives Conference  
[National Association of Secretaries of State](#) (NASS)  
National Coalition for History  
New England Archivists  
Northwest Archivists  
Organization of American Historians  
Palmetto Archives, Libraries and Museums Council on  
Preservation (PALMCOP)  
Society of California Archivists  
Society of Florida Archivists  
Society of Georgia Archivists  
Society of Ohio Archivists  
Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists  
Society of Southwest Archivists  
South Carolina Archival Association  
Southeastern Archives and Records Conference  
Southern Historical Association

The lists of sponsors and endorsements attest to the very successful ongoing efforts of Kathleen Roe and the Task Force. More names continue to be added to the lists. Since the Council's May meeting, the co-sponsor list has increased from 19 to 24 names, and the endorsements have grown from 33 to 36.

The Task Force is pursuing potential Senate sponsors, focusing on approximately a half dozen promising senators. In June, Roe met with Krista Boyd, the staff person from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Boyd said the bill had not been on her radar but that, now that she is aware of it, she will make sure it is referred to the Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives. The chair of this subcommittee is William Lacy Clay of Missouri.

Roe urged the Task Force to make congressional contacts, and to encourage archivists everywhere to do the same, during Congress' summer holiday in early July. The California Congress members have continued to be an elusive group, with not a peep to be heard from any of them, so, as a Californian, I wrote letters to the following California Congress members on the Oversight Committee: Democrats Diane E. Watson and Jackie Speier, and Republican Darrell Issa. I also wrote to Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles), after being alerted by Jelain Chubb to Rep. Waters' previously demonstrated interest in historical matters. No reply yet from any of these representatives, unfortunately. So, California continues to be silent. It is disappointing for the California delegation to be so unresponsive, but efforts will continue. Perhaps the California congress members are preoccupied with the dreadful economic state of our Fair State.

PAHR is being promoted at the annual meetings of NAGARA, CoSA, SAA, etc. Task Force members distribute information before and during these meetings. The Task Force has come up with a button for conference attendees to wear to promote PAHR, and we should see lots of them at the Joint Meeting in Austin.

In this, my last report on PAHR, I want to commend the Task Force, and especially Kathleen Roe, for their enormous energy and commitment to promoting PAHR. Kathleen has worked tirelessly to spur others to action and to make key contacts on the congressional scene, and she deserves all the thanks and kudos that we can offer. For me, it has been a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of this extraordinary effort, even for a short time.