

House Resolution 525

By: Representatives Kennard of the 102nd, McLeod of the 105th, Clark of the 108th, Hutchinson of the 107th, and Bennett of the 94th

A RESOLUTION

1 Acknowledging Suwanee Elementary School for its support of Harriet Ross Tubman's image
2 replacing Andrew Jackson's on the \$20 bill; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, fourth-grade student Miss Ansley Phillips has created a school-wide petition
4 in support of the Harriet Ross Tubman \$20 bill at Suwanee Elementary School with Principal
5 Mary Taylor and Teacher Lisa Westpheling; and

6 WHEREAS, while Harriet Ross Tubman represents one of the most inspiring American
7 stories, Andrew Jackson represents one of the darkest examples of presidential history. He
8 was a slave owner; a slavery advocate; and the architect of both the Indian Removal Act and
9 the subsequent Trail of Tears, which forcibly removed hundreds of thousands of indigenous
10 people, including the Cherokee, Muscogee, Seminole, Choctaw, and Chickasaw tribes, from
11 their ancestral homes and relocated them west of the Mississippi, a tragic journey that led to
12 the death of thousands of indigenous men, women, and children; and

13 WHEREAS, Harriet Ross Tubman was born into slavery in Bucktown, Maryland, in or
14 around 1820; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1849, she escaped to Philadelphia and became a conductor on the
16 Underground Railroad; and

17 WHEREAS, she was commonly referred to as "Moses" due to her courage and sacrifice in
18 leading many enslaved persons out of bondage and into freedom, endeavoring despite great
19 hardship and danger of being reenslaved; and

20 WHEREAS, Harriet Ross Tubman became an eloquent and effective speaker on behalf of
21 the movement to abolish slavery; during the Civil War, she assisted the Union Army as a
22 cook, nurse, scout, and spy before becoming the first woman to lead an armed expedition in
23 the war, resulting in the liberation of more than 700 slaves; and

24 WHEREAS, after the Civil War, she became active in the women's suffrage movement and
25 continued to fight for human dignity, human rights, opportunity, and justice; and

26 WHEREAS, in 1896, Harriet Ross Tubman purchased 25 acres of land in Auburn, New
27 York, to create a home and hospital for indigent, aged, and sick African Americans, which
28 opened on June 23, 1908, as the Harriet Tubman Home for the Sick and Aged and became
29 the only charity outside of New York City dedicated to the shelter and care of African
30 Americans in New York; and

31 WHEREAS, in 1944, the United States Maritime Commission launched the *SS Harriet*
32 *Tubman* (Hull Number 3032), the first Liberty ship ever named for an African American
33 woman; and

34 WHEREAS, in 1978, Harriet Ross Tubman was the first honoree in the United States Postal
35 Service Black Heritage Stamp Series.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
37 the members of this body support Miss Ansley Phillips and the hundreds of students and
38 faculty members of Suwanee Elementary School in their noble efforts to raise awareness of
39 this great American and her deserved placement on our national currency.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
41 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
42 public and the press.