

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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Opening Statement
Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly

H.R. 2989, the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission Act

July 19, 2017

Mr. Chairman, the bill would establish a commission to study and organize activities to commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of Frederick Douglass next year.

Douglass was born into slavery and during his lifetime became an internationally recognized abolitionist and champion for equal rights. He also held several prominent federal positions.

I am pleased that the Federal government has already taken some steps to recognize Douglass, most recently by unveiling in 2013 a Frederick Douglass statue in Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol Visitors Center that was a gift from the District of Columbia. We can and should do more to recognize the contributions of Frederick Douglass.

I urge adoption of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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