

# [COMMITTEE PRINT]

April 30, 2004

[Showing H.R. 3916, As Adopted by the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology]

108<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3916

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2004

Mr. CASTLE (for himself and Mrs. MALONEY) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the part printed in roman]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 9, 2004]

## A BILL

To improve circulation of the \$1 coin, create a new bullion coin, 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 **SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Presidential \$1 Coin  
5 Act of 2004” .



1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds as follows:

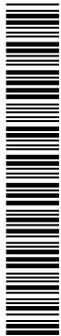
3 (1) There are sectors of the United States econ-  
4 omy, including public transportation, parking me-  
5 ters, vending machines and low-dollar value trans-  
6 actions, in which the use of a \$1 coin is both useful  
7 and desirable for keeping costs and prices down.

8 (2) For a variety of reasons, the new \$1 coin  
9 introduced in 2000 has not been widely sought-after  
10 by the public, leading to higher costs for merchants  
11 and thus higher prices for consumers.

12 (3) The success of the 50 States Commemora-  
13 tive Coin Program for circulating quarter dollars  
14 shows that a rotating design on a United States cir-  
15 culating coin radically increases demand for the  
16 coin, rapidly pulling it through the economy.

17 (4) The 50 States Commemorative Coin Pro-  
18 gram also has been an educational tool, teaching  
19 both Americans and visitors something about each  
20 State for which a quarter has been issued.

21 (5) A national survey and study by the General  
22 Accounting Office has indicated that many Ameri-  
23 cans who do not seek, or who reject, the new \$1 coin  
24 for use in commerce would actively seek the coin if  
25 an attractive, educational rotating design were to be  
26 struck on the coin.



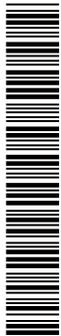
1           (6) The President is the leader of our tripartite  
2           government and the President's spouse has often set  
3           the social tone for the White House while spear-  
4           heading and highlighting important issues for the  
5           country.

6           (7) Many people cannot name all of the Presi-  
7           dents, and fewer can name the spouses, nor can  
8           many people accurately place each President in the  
9           proper time period of American history.

10          (8) First Spouses have not generally been rec-  
11          ognized on American coinage.

12          (9) Sacagewea, as currently represented on the  
13          new \$1 coin, is an important symbol of American  
14          history.

15          (10) In order to revitalize the design of United  
16          States coinage and return circulating coinage to its  
17          position as not only a necessary means of exchange  
18          in commerce but also as an object of aesthetic beau-  
19          ty in its own right, it is appropriate to move many  
20          of the mottos and emblems, the inscription of the  
21          year, and the so-called "mint marks" that currently  
22          appear on the 2 faces of each circulating coin to the  
23          edge of the coin, which would allow larger and more  
24          dramatic artwork on the coins reminiscent of the so-  
25          called "Golden Age of Coinage" in the United



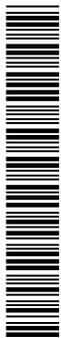
1 States, at the beginning of the Twentieth Century,  
2 initiated by President Theodore Roosevelt, with the  
3 assistance of noted sculptors and medallic artists  
4 James Earle Fraser and Augustus St. Gaudens.

5 (11) Placing inscriptions on the edge of coins,  
6 known as edge-incusing, is a hallmark of modern  
7 coinage and is common in large-volume production  
8 of coinage elsewhere in the world, such as the  
9 2,700,000,000 2-Euro coins in circulation and coins  
10 of the People's Republic of China, but it has not  
11 been done on a large scale in United States coinage  
12 in recent years.

13 (12) Bullion coins are a valuable tool for the in-  
14 vestor and, in some cases, an important aspect of  
15 coin collecting.

16 (13) Although the Congress has authorized the  
17 Secretary of the Treasury to issue gold coins with a  
18 purity of 99.99 percent, the Secretary has not done  
19 so.

20 (14) By commencing the issuance of the presi-  
21 dential \$1 coins in 2006, coins issued in uncir-  
22 culated or proof qualities that commemorate the  
23 presidency of Thomas Jefferson may appropriately  
24 be sold in sets with the coins of similar qualities that  
25 are issued in 2006 and commemorate the Lewis and



1 Clark expedition, together with \$1 coins that bear  
2 the image of Sacagewea and are struck for numis-  
3 matic purposes under section 5112(n)(1)(B) of title  
4 31, United States Code (as amended by section 3 of  
5 this Act).

6 **SEC. 3. PRESIDENTIAL \$1 COIN PROGRAM.**

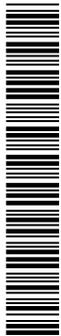
7 Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is  
8 amended by inserting after subsection (m) the following  
9 new subsection:

10 “(n) REDESIGN AND ISSUANCE OF CIRCULATING \$1  
11 COINS HONORING EACH OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE  
12 UNITED STATES.—

13 “(1) REDESIGN BEGINNING IN 2006.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sub-  
15 section (d) and in accordance with the provi-  
16 sions of this subsection, \$1 coins issued during  
17 the period beginning January 1, 2006, and end-  
18 ing upon the termination of the program under  
19 paragraph (6) shall have designs on the obverse  
20 selected in accordance with paragraph (2)(B)  
21 which are emblematic of the Presidents of the  
22 United States and a design on the reverse se-  
23 lected in accordance with paragraph (2)(A).

24 “(B) TRANSITION PROVISION.—Notwith-  
25 standing subparagraph (A), the Secretary may



1 continue to mint and issue \$1 coins in 2006  
2 which bear the design in effect before the rede-  
3 sign required under this subsection, as required  
4 for numismatic purposes and to ensure a  
5 smooth transition into the presidential coin pro-  
6 gram under this subsection.

7 “(2) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—The \$1 coins  
8 issued in accordance with paragraph (1)(A) shall  
9 meet the following design requirements:

10 “(A) COIN REVERSE.—The design on the  
11 reverse shall bear—

12 “(i) a likeness of the Statue of Lib-  
13 erty extending to the rim of the coin and  
14 large enough to provide a dramatic rep-  
15 resentation of Liberty while not being large  
16 enough to create the impression of a ‘2-  
17 headed’ coin;

18 “(ii) the inscription ‘\$1’ ; and

19 “(iii) the inscription ‘United States of  
20 America’.

21 “(B) COIN OBVERSE.—The design on the  
22 obverse shall contain the name and likeness of  
23 a President of the United States and basic in-  
24 formation about the President, including the  
25 dates or years of the term of office of such



1 President and a number indicating the order of  
2 the period of service in which the President  
3 served.

4 “(C) EDGE-INCUSED INSCRIPTIONS.—The  
5 inscription of the year of minting or issuance of  
6 the coin and the inscriptions ‘E Pluribus  
7 Unum’ and ‘In God We Trust’ shall be edge-  
8 incused into the coin.

9 “(D) INSCRIPTIONS OF ‘LIBERTY’.—Not-  
10 withstanding the 2d sentence of subsection  
11 (d)(1), because the use of a design bearing the  
12 likeness of the Statue of Liberty on the reverse  
13 of the coins issued under this subsection ade-  
14 quately conveys the concept of Liberty, the in-  
15 scription of ‘Liberty’ shall not appear on the  
16 coins.

17 “(E) PROHIBITION ON SITTING PRESIDENT  
18 IN SERIES.—No coin issued under this sub-  
19 section may bear the image of a President who  
20 has not completed such President’s period of  
21 service.

22 “(3) ISSUANCE OF COINS COMMEMORATING  
23 PRESIDENTS.—

24 “(A) ORDER OF ISSUANCE.—The coins  
25 issued under this subsection commemorating



1           Presidents of the United States shall be issued  
2           in the order of the period of service of each  
3           President, beginning with President George  
4           Washington.

5           “(B) TREATMENT OF PERIOD OF SERV-  
6           ICE.—

7                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause  
8                   (ii), only 1 coin design shall be issued for  
9                   a period of service for any President, no  
10                  matter how many consecutive terms of of-  
11                  fice the President served.

12                   “(ii) NONCONSECUTIVE TERMS.—If a  
13                  President has served during 2 or more  
14                  nonconsecutive periods of service, a coin  
15                  shall be issued under this subsection for  
16                  each such nonconsecutive period of service.

17           “(4) ISSUANCE OF COINS COMMEMORATING 4  
18           PRESIDENTS DURING EACH YEAR OF THE PERIOD.—

19                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The designs for the  
20                  \$1 coins issued during each year of the period  
21                  referred to in paragraph (1) shall be emblem-  
22                  atic of 4 Presidents until the year the program  
23                  terminates.

24                   “(B) NUMBER OF EACH OF 4 COIN DE-  
25                  SIGNS IN EACH YEAR.—The Secretary shall pre-



1           scribe, on the basis of such factors as the Sec-  
2           retary determines to be appropriate, the num-  
3           ber of \$1 coins that shall be issued with each  
4           of the designs selected for each year of the pe-  
5           riod referred to in paragraph (1).

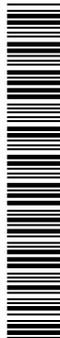
6           “(5) ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may mint and  
7           issue such number of \$1 coins of each design se-  
8           lected under this subsection in uncirculated and  
9           proof qualities as the Secretary determines to be ap-  
10          propriate.

11          “(6) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—The  
12          issuance of coins under this subsection shall termi-  
13          nate when each President who has finished such  
14          President’s period of service has been so honored  
15          and may not be resumed except by an Act of Con-  
16          gress.

17          “(7) REVERSION TO PRECEDING DESIGN.—  
18          Upon the termination of the issuance of coins under  
19          this subsection, the design of the \$1 coin shall revert  
20          to the design on \$1 coins being issued immediately  
21          before the issuance of coins under this subsection.”.

22   **SEC. 4. FIRST SPOUSE BULLION COIN PROGRAM.**

23          Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is  
24          amended by inserting after subsection (n) (as added by  
25          section 3 of this Act) the following new subsection:



1 “(o) FIRST SPOUSE BULLION COIN PROGRAM.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—During the same period in  
3 which the \$1 coins are issued under subsection (n)  
4 which are emblematic of the Presidents of the  
5 United States, the Secretary of the Treasury shall  
6 issue bullion coins under this subsection that are  
7 emblematic of the spouse of each such President.

8 “(2) SPECIFICATIONS.—The coins issued under  
9 this subsection shall—

10 “(A) have the same diameter as the \$1  
11 coins described in subsection (n);

12 “(B) weigh 0.5 ounce; and

13 “(C) contain 99.99 percent pure gold.

14 “(3) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

15 “(A) COIN OBVERSE.—The design on the  
16 obverse of each coin issued under this sub-  
17 section shall contain—

18 “(i) the name and likeness of a person  
19 who was a spouse of a President during  
20 the President’s period of service;

21 “(ii) an inscription of the years during  
22 which such person was the spouse of a  
23 President during the President’s period of  
24 service; and



1           “(iii) the number indicating the order  
2           of the period of service in which such  
3           President served.

4           “(B) COIN REVERSE.—The design on the  
5           reverse of each coin issued under this sub-  
6           section shall bear—

7                   “(i) images emblematic of the life and  
8                   work of the First Spouse whose image is  
9                   borne on the obverse;

10                   “(ii) the inscription ‘United States of  
11                   America’.

12           “(C) DESIGNATED DENOMINATION.—Each  
13           coin issued under this subsection shall bear, on  
14           the reverse, an inscription of the nominal de-  
15           nomination of the coin which shall be ‘\$10’.

16           “(D) DESIGN IN CASE OF NO FIRST  
17           SPOUSE.—In the case of any President who  
18           served without a spouse—

19                   “(i) the image on the obverse of the  
20                   bullion coin corresponding to the \$1 coin  
21                   relating to such President shall be an  
22                   image emblematic of the concept of  
23                   ‘Liberty’—

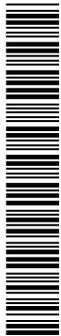


1           “(I) as represented on a United  
2 States coin issued during the period  
3 of service of such President; or

4           “(II) as represented, in the case  
5 of President Chester Alan Arthur, by  
6 a design incorporating the name and  
7 likeness of Alice Paul, a leading strat-  
8 egist in the suffrage movement, who  
9 was instrumental in gaining women  
10 the right to vote upon the adoption of  
11 the 19th amendment and thus partici-  
12 pate in the election of future Presi-  
13 dents, and who was born on January  
14 11, 1885, during the term of Presi-  
15 dent Arthur; and

16           “(ii) the reverse of such bullion coin  
17 shall be of a design representative of  
18 themes of such President, except that in  
19 the case of the bullion coin referred to in  
20 clause (i)(II) the reverse of such coin shall  
21 be representative of the suffrage move-  
22 ment.

23           “(E) DESIGN AND COIN FOR EACH  
24 SPOUSE.—A separate coin shall be designed and  
25 issued under this section for each person who



1 was the spouse of a President during any por-  
2 tion of a term of office of such President.

3 “(F) INSCRIPTIONS.—Each bullion coin  
4 issued under this subsection shall bear the in-  
5 scription of the year of minting or issuance of  
6 the coin and such other inscriptions as the Sec-  
7 retary may determine to be appropriate.

8 “(4) SALE OF BULLION COINS.—Each bullion  
9 coin issued under this subsection shall be sold for an  
10 amount the Secretary of the Treasury determines to  
11 be appropriate that is equal to or greater than the  
12 sum of—

13 “(A) the face value of the coins; and

14 “(B) the cost of designing and issuing the  
15 coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of  
16 machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and  
17 shipping).

18 “(5) ISSUANCE OF COINS COMMEMORATING  
19 FIRST SPOUSES.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The bullion coins  
21 issued under this subsection with respect to any  
22 spouse of a President shall be issued on the  
23 same schedule as the \$1 coin issued under sub-  
24 section (n) with respect to such President.



1           “(B) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—No  
2           bullion coin may be issued under this subsection  
3           after the design on the \$1 coin reverts, in ac-  
4           cordance with subsection (n)(7), to the design  
5           on \$1 coins being issued immediately before the  
6           issuance of coins under subsection (n).

7           “(6) QUALITY OF COINS.—The bullion coins  
8           shall be issued in both proof and uncirculated quali-  
9           ties.

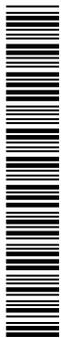
10           “(7) SOURCE OF GOLD BULLION.—Section  
11           5116(a)(3) shall apply to the acquisition of gold by  
12           the Secretary for the coins issued under this sub-  
13           section.”.

14 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

15           It is the sense of the Congress that—

16           (1) the American tradition of not issuing a coin  
17           with the image of a living person has served the  
18           country well and deserves to be continued as a gen-  
19           eral practice;

20           (2) the full circulation potential and cost-sav-  
21           ings benefit projections for the presidential \$1 coin  
22           program are not likely to be achieved unless the  
23           coins are delivered in ways useful to ordinary com-  
24           merce;



1           (3) in connection with the introduction of the  
2           \$1 coins under the presidential \$1 coin program—

3                   (A) the coins should not be introduced  
4                   with an overly expensive taxpayer-funded public  
5                   relations campaign; and

6                   (B) the Director of the United States  
7                   Mint, a bureau in the Department of the Treas-  
8                   ury, should—

9                           (i) work with consumer groups, media  
10                           outlets, and schools to ensure an adequate  
11                           amount of news coverage about the start of  
12                           the coin program so consumers will know  
13                           of the availability of the coins; and

14                           (ii) work closely with merchants who  
15                           will use the coins, vending machine and  
16                           other coin acceptor manufacturers, vending  
17                           machine operators, transit officials, and  
18                           municipal parking officials, as well as with  
19                           the Board of Governors of the Federal Re-  
20                           serve System and the various banking and  
21                           business associations, to ensure that—

22                                   (I) adequate numbers of vending  
23                                   machines and coin accepting equip-  
24                                   ment will accept the coin, and are la-  
25                                   beled as such;



1 (II) cash register drawers are  
2 ready to accept the coins; and

3 (III) the contractors who handle  
4 recirculation of coins for the Board of  
5 Governors of the Federal Reserve Sys-  
6 tem have machinery available to de-  
7 liver and recycle the coins in pack-  
8 aging that is useful to businesses, in-  
9 cluding rolled coins;

10 (4) if the Secretary of the Treasury determines  
11 to include on any \$1 coin minted under section  
12 5112(n) of title 31, United States Code (as added  
13 by section 3 of this Act) a mark denoting the United  
14 States Mint facility at which the coin was struck,  
15 such mark should be edge-incused; and

16 (5) at such time as the Board of Governors of  
17 the Federal Reserve System determines to be appro-  
18 priate, after consultation with the Secretary of the  
19 Treasury and the submission of notice to the Con-  
20 gress, the Board should separate and sequester, and  
21 not put back into circulation, any \$1 coin that  
22 comes into the possession of the Board or any Fed-  
23 eral reserve bank and does not bear—

24 (A) a design specified under section  
25 5112(n) of title 31, United States Code; or



1 (B) the design referred to in paragraph (7)  
2 of such section.

