



1201 16th Street, NW | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Lily Eskelsen García
President

Rebecca S. Pringle
Vice President

Princess R. Moss
Secretary-Treasurer

Kim A. Anderson
Executive Director

*Great Public Schools
for Every Student*

February 24, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association who work in schools and on college campuses across the nation, we urge you to vote YES on the Emmett Till Antilynching Act (H.R. 35), which will designate lynching as a hate crime under federal law and correct a historic wrong. Votes associated with this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

In the poem "On the Pulse of Morning," the late Maya Angelou wrote:

*History, despite its wrenching pain,
Cannot be unlived, but if faced
With courage, need not be lived again.*

With the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, Congress will take long-overdue action to address the horrific mutilation and murder of thousands of people, most of whom were African American. Local authorities were often complicit in this terrorism well into the 20th century, while federal law largely ignored it. The Emmett Till Antilynching Act not only confronts our shameful past; the legislation, by establishing that racially motivated terror and mob violence are federal hate crimes *today*, takes significant steps to ensure that we do not relive our violent past.

Educators teach students to appreciate and uphold the values that America espouses, including justice for all and the rule of law. We have not always lived up to these ideals, but our pursuit of them must be eternal. Members of this Congress have the opportunity to do now what earlier members failed to do. We urge you to pass the Emmett Till Antilynching Act.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association