

How to Call your Representative to ask them to co-sponsor HR 8637, the Japanese American Confinement Education Act

Call the House of Representatives Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask them to connect you to your Representative. You can provide them with your zip code and they will automatically make the connection, or you can identify your representative and call their office directly by looking them up at:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Script:

Hello, my name is _____ and I live in Representative _____'s District. I am calling today to ask Representative _____ to sign on as a co-sponsor to HR 8637, the Japanese American Confinement Education Act. This legislation would support continuing efforts through the National Park Service to educate Americans of the injustices of the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans. It would permanently authorize the Japanese American Confinement Sites Program with a new 38 million dollars in funding and create a new education program to develop and distribute curriculum and other materials about the incarceration experience. I hope Representative _____ will contact Representative Matsui, who was herself incarcerated with her family during the war, to join the growing bi-partisan list of co-sponsors for this legislation.

Further conversation:

The person on the phone will probably ask for your contact information for their records and maybe for someone to call you back who is more familiar with the program or the National Park Service. If you want to have more background information, you can refer to our JACE Advocacy Resource page at

<https://jacl.org/h-r-8637-japanese-american-confinement-education-act/>

Tips:

- Don't be scared! House staffers are usually very friendly.
- If the office is busy, don't give up. Try again in a few minutes or leave a voicemail.
- If you don't know the answer to a question about the legislation, don't worry, you can either get the information to them later or refer them to JACL's national office at 202-223-1240.
- Be sure to thank them for taking the time to talk.
- Email policy@jacl.org to let us know how your call went.