



H.RES. 1088 – RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A VITAL AMERICAN CULTURAL AMBASSADOR TO THE WORLD

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1088 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) on April 8, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1088 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1088 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes and commends the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for 50 years of service as a vital American cultural ambassador to the world, during which it has provided world-class American modern dance to an estimated 21,000,000 people across the globe;
- Recognizes that the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has been a true pioneer in the world of dance by establishing an extended cultural community which provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people while using the beauty and humanity of the African-American heritage and other cultures to unite people of all ages, races, and backgrounds; and
- Recognizes that Ailey II, the prestigious Ailey School, and Ailey's extensive and innovative Arts In Education and Community Programs train future generations of dancers and choreographers while continuing to expose young people from communities large and small to the arts.

BACKGROUND

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The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater was formed in 1958, when its namesake and founder, Alvin Ailey, and a group of African-American modern dancers performed at the 92nd Street Young Men's Hebrew Association in New York. Mr. Ailey was the Artistic Director for his company until his death in 1989. Over his lifetime he created 79 ballets and was awarded the United Nations' Peace Medal in 1982.

Following his death, the company was taken over by his chosen successor, Judith Jamison. Ms. Jamison was presented with a Kennedy Center Honor in December 1999. In 2001, President George W. Bush presented her with a National Medal of the Arts, which is the highest award presented to artists in the United States.

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 21 million people in 48 states and 71 countries. This year marks the company's 50th anniversary of "bringing African-American cultural expression and the American modern dance tradition to the world's stages."

[Alvin Ailey Dance Theater Website](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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