



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

September 25, 2000

H.R. 2919
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on
September 20, 2000*

H.R. 2919 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. The act would authorize the appropriation of \$16 million through fiscal year 2003 to finance 20 percent of the costs of the center's activities, primarily constructing a facility and developing related programs and exhibits. H.R. 2919 also would authorize the appropriation of \$2.5 million annually beginning in fiscal year 2001 for grants to preserve and restore historic structures associated with the Underground Railroad.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the National Park Service would spend \$27.5 million over the 2001-2005 period, including \$15 million for the Freedom Center facility and \$2.5 million for each of the five years for historic preservation grants. (The center received an appropriation of \$1 million in fiscal year 2000.) H.R. 2919 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. State and local governments might incur some costs to match federal funds authorized by H.R. 2919, but these costs would be voluntary.

On June 28, 2000, CBO submitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2919 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 20, 2000. The two versions of this legislation are identical, as are our cost estimates.

The CBO staff contacts are Deborah Reis (for federal costs), and Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.