

The Honorable Ben Cline
10 Franklin Rd. SE, Suite 510
Roanoke, VA 24011

Re: The Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building Act of 2023

Dear Congressman Cline:

On December 6, 2023, the Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building Act of 2023 was introduced in the Senate. The bill would rename the Richard H. Poff Federal Building in Roanoke, Virginia, to the Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building.

Reuben E. Lawson was a trailblazing civil rights attorney in Roanoke, Virginia, in the 1950s and 60s. He successfully brought numerous lawsuits in the early 1960s, which led to an end of school segregation in the Roanoke Valley, as well as in several surrounding localities. His legacy and fearlessness during a turbulent time of civil unrest throughout our country has long been overlooked.

On January 25, 2024, the Committee on Environment and Public Works favorably reported the Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building Act of 2023 out of committee, and it was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 313.

On February 8, 2024, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that renaming the Richard H. Poff Federal Building to the Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building would have “no significant cost.”

I write to you to express my support for the Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building Act of 2023 and ask that you also support the Act once it passes the Senate and is before the House of Representatives. Although we live in politically divisive times, we are all united by a desire to uplift the legacies of those who battled segregation. Renaming the Richard H. Poff Federal Building will make great strides towards honoring one such titan, Reuben E. Lawson, at no significant cost to the taxpayer.

Thank you for your consideration of the Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building Act of 2023 and continued service as our elected representative in Congress.