Public Law 101-394
101st Congress

Joint Resolution

To designate the week of September 23 through 29, 1990, as "Religious Freedom Week".

Sept. 25, 1990
[S.J. Res. 331]

Whereas the principle of religious liberty was an essential part of the founding of the Nation, and must be safeguarded with eternal vigilance by all men and women of goodwill;

Whereas religious liberty has been endangered throughout history by bigotry and indifference;

Whereas the first amendment to the Constitution guarantees the inalienable rights of individuals to worship freely or not be religious, as they choose, without interference from governmental or other agencies;

Whereas the Constitution ensures religious freedom to all of the people of the United States;

Whereas at Touro Synagogue in 1790, President George Washington issued his famous letter declaring "to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance";

Whereas the Touro Synagogue letter advocating the doctrine of mutual respect and understanding was issued more than 1 year before the adoption of the Bill of Rights;

Whereas the letter of President Washingon and the Touro Synagogue have become national symbols of the commitment of the United States to religious freedom;

Whereas throughout the history of the Nation, religion has contributed to the welfare of believers and of society generally, and has been a force for maintaining high standards for morality, ethics, and justice;

Whereas religion is most free when it is observed voluntarily at private initiative, uncontaminated by Government interference and unconstrained by majority preference; and

Whereas religious liberty can be protected only through the efforts of all persons of goodwill in a united commitment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That—

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(1) the week of September 23 through 29, 1990, is designated as "Religious Freedom Week"; and

(2) the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, including members of all faiths or none, to join together in support of religious tolerance and religious liberty for all, and to observe the week with appropriate activities.

Approved September 25, 1990.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 331:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 136 (1990):
June 18, considered and passed Senate.
Sept. 17, considered and passed House.