

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 316

To express the sense of Congress that State and local governments and local educational agencies are encouraged to dedicate a day of learning to the study and understanding of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Federalist Papers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 4, 1998

Mr. GINGRICH (for himself, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Mr. BASS, Mr. BATEMAN, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BRYANT, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COX of California, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. DELAY, Ms. DUNN, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. KASICH, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. LINDER, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. METCALF, Mrs. MYRICK, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PITTS, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. REDMOND, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. STUMP, Mr. TALENT, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. WELDON of Florida, and Mr. WOLF) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sense of Congress that State and local governments and local educational agencies are encouraged to dedicate a day of learning to the study and understanding of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Federalist Papers.

Whereas the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the signing of the United States Constitution in

1787, and the ratification of the Bill of Rights in 1789 were principal events in the history of the United States;

Whereas these documents stand as the foundation of our form of democracy, providing at the same time the touchstone of our national identity and the vehicle for orderly growth and change;

Whereas the Federalist Papers embody an eloquent and forceful argument made in support of the adoption of our republican form of government;

Whereas the success of the American experiment requires that our Nation's children—the future of its heritage and participants in its governance—have a firm knowledge of its principles and history; and

Whereas the limited nature of government is the fundamental American concept of governance, because our system is based on the belief that power is granted by our Creator to the citizen who then voluntarily loans power to the state and because, as the Declaration of Independence states, “all men . . . are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) State and local governments and local edu-
4 cational agencies are encouraged to dedicate at least
5 one day of learning to the study and understanding
6 of the significance of the Declaration of Independ-
7 ence, the United States Constitution, and the Fed-
8 eralist Papers; and

1 (2) State and local governments and local edu-
2 cational agencies are encouraged to include a re-
3 quirement that, before receiving a certificate or di-
4 ploma of graduation from high school, students be
5 tested on their competency in understanding the
6 Declaration of Independence, the United States Con-
7 stitution, and the Federalist Papers.

