

# House Calendar No. 192

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

## H. J. RES. 78

[Report No. 105-543]

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States restoring religious freedom.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 1997

Mr. ISTOOK (for himself, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BAKER, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. BARCIA, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. COOK, Mr. CRANE, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. DELAY, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GINGRICH, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HILL, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JONES, Mr. KASICH, Mr. KIM, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. LINDER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MICA, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NEUMANN, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PARKER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PAXON, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. PITTS, Mr. POMBO, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. RILEY, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. BOB SCHAFER of Colorado, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington, Mr. SNOWBARGER, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr.

WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

MAY 19, 1998

Additional sponsors: Mr. HASTERT, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HEFNER, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. NEY, Mrs. BONO, Mr. METCALF, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. GOSS, Ms. DUNN of Washington, Mr. CAMP, Mr. BATEMAN, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. COBLE, Mr. REDMOND, Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. RIGGS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. BRADY, Mr. CANNON, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. JOHN, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. ROGAN, and Mr. OXLEY

MAY 19, 1998

Reported with an amendment, referred to the House Calendar, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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## JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States restoring religious freedom.

1       *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2       *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*  
3       *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the fol-*  
4       *lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-*  
5       *stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all*  
6       *intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when*  
7       *ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several*  
8       *States within seven years after the date of its submission*  
9       *for ratification:*

1 “ARTICLE —

2 “SECTION 1. To secure the people’s right to acknowl-  
 3 edge God according to the dictates of conscience. The peo-  
 4 ple’s right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs,  
 5 heritage, or traditions on public property, including  
 6 schools, shall not be infringed. The Government shall not  
 7 require any person to join in prayer or other religious ac-  
 8 tivity, initiate or designate school prayers, discriminate  
 9 against religion, or deny equal access to a benefit on ac-  
 10 count of religion.”.

11 *That the following article is proposed as an amendment to*  
 12 *the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid*  
 13 *to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when*  
 14 *ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several*  
 15 *States within seven years after the date of its submission*  
 16 *for ratification:*

17 “ARTICLE —

18 “To secure the people’s right to acknowledge God ac-  
 19 cording to the dictates of conscience. Neither the United  
 20 States nor any State shall establish any official religion,  
 21 but the people’s right to pray and to recognize their reli-  
 22 gious beliefs, heritage, or traditions on public property, in-  
 23 cluding schools, shall not be infringed. Neither the United  
 24 States nor any State shall require any person to join in  
 25 prayer or other religious activity, prescribe school prayers,

- 1 *discriminate against religion, or deny equal access to a ben-*
- 2 *efit on account of religion.”.*



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