

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 429

To redesignate the legal public holiday of “Washington’s Birthday” as “Presidents’ Day” in honor of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt and in recognition of the importance of the institution of the Presidency and the contributions that Presidents have made to the development of our Nation and the principles of freedom and democracy.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 1999

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. LEVIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To redesignate the legal public holiday of “Washington’s Birthday” as “Presidents’ Day” in honor of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt and in recognition of the importance of the institution of the Presidency and the contributions that Presidents have made to the development of our Nation and the principles of freedom and democracy.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 The Senate finds that—

3 (1) great American Presidents have led our
4 country through its greatest challenges and crises,
5 and advanced the principles of freedom and democ-
6 racy upon which our country was founded;

7 (2) President George Washington, father of our
8 country, provided critical leadership to launch our
9 Nation’s experiment in democracy and set high
10 standards for the Office of President of the United
11 States;

12 (3) President Abraham Lincoln, whose strength
13 and wisdom guided the Nation through its gravest
14 domestic crisis, overcame the forces of division to
15 preserve our democratic system, ended the blight of
16 slavery, and inspired a new commitment to the prin-
17 ciples of freedom, justice, and equality;

18 (4) President Franklin Roosevelt led our Nation
19 through the tragedy of the Great Depression and the
20 fight against tyranny in World War II;

21 (5) the leadership and dedication of great Presi-
22 dents have brought peace, prosperity, freedom, and
23 greater equality to the American people;

24 (6) the Office of the President of the United
25 States is an important symbol of liberty and freedom
26 to nations throughout the world; and

1 (7) an occasion should be established on which
2 our Nation can acknowledge the important contribu-
3 tions that great Presidents have made to the devel-
4 opment of our Nation and the advancement of the
5 principles of freedom and democracy upon which it
6 is founded.

7 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

8 It is the sense of the Senate that in order to enhance
9 the understanding and study of the institution of the Pres-
10 idency and the important contributions of the persons who
11 have occupied the Office of the President of the United
12 States, the President should issue a proclamation declar-
13 ing the week that begins on the Sunday before “Presi-
14 dents’ Day”, of each year, as “United States Presidential
15 History Week”.

16 **SEC. 3. REDESIGNATION.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6103(a) of title 5, United
18 States Code, is amended by striking “Washington’s Birth-
19 day” and inserting “Presidents’ Day, in honor of George
20 Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt
21 and in recognition of the importance of the institution of
22 the Presidency and the contributions that Presidents have
23 made to our Nation’s development and the principles of
24 freedom and democracy (also referred to as ‘Presidents’
25 Day’)”.

1 (b) REFERENCES.—Except where inappropriate, any
2 reference to “Washington’s Birthday” in any law, Execu-
3 tive order, rule, or other document shall include a ref-
4 erence to “Presidents’ Day”.

