

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 108

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the landmark case *Gideon v. Wainwright*, in which the Supreme Court held that counsel must be provided to indigent defendants in all felony cases.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2013

Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. WATT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the landmark case *Gideon v. Wainwright*, in which the Supreme Court held that counsel must be provided to indigent defendants in all felony cases.

Whereas, on March 18, 1963, the Supreme Court recognized in *Gideon v. Wainwright* that counsel must be provided to indigent defendants in all felony cases;

Whereas the Supreme Court held that providing counsel to indigent defendants in all felony cases meets the essential requirements of the 6th amendment to the United States Constitution;

Whereas the Supreme Court held in *Argersinger v. Hamlin* that indigent defendants are entitled, under the 6th

amendment to the United States Constitution, to court-appointed counsel in all cases where imprisonment is a possibility;

Whereas 50 years after the Gideon v. Wainwright decision, excessive caseloads are preventing counsel for indigent defendants from providing quality representation; and

Whereas the provision of counsel to indigent defendants often lacks fairness and increases the risk that poor people will be wrongfully convicted: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) recognizes and honors the 50th anniversary  
3       of the decision in Gideon v. Wainwright;

4               (2) encourages all people in the United States  
5       to recognize and honor the 50th anniversary of the  
6       Gideon v. Wainwright decision; and

7               (3) supports strategies to improve the criminal  
8       justice system to ensure that indigent defendants in  
9       all felony cases are adequately represented by coun-  
10      sel.

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