

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 373

Recognizing the historical significance of Executive Order 9066 and expressing the sense of the Senate that policies that discriminate against any individual based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion of that individual would be a repetition of the mistakes of Executive Order 9066 and contrary to the values of the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 24, 2016

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historical significance of Executive Order 9066 and expressing the sense of the Senate that policies that discriminate against any individual based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion of that individual would be a repetition of the mistakes of Executive Order 9066 and contrary to the values of the United States.

Whereas, on December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy launched a surprise attack against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, which led to—

(1) increased prejudice and suspicion toward Japanese Americans; and

(2) calls from civilians and public officials to remove Japanese Americans from the west coast of the United States;

Whereas, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 (7 Fed. Reg. 1407; relating to authorizing the Secretary of War to prescribe military areas) (referred to in this preamble as “Executive Order 9066”), which led to—

(1) the exclusion of 120,000 Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens from the west coast of the United States; and

(2) the incarceration of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents of Japanese ancestry in incarceration camps during World War II;

Whereas President Gerald Ford formally rescinded Executive Order 9066 in Presidential Proclamation 4417, dated February 19, 1976 (41 Fed. Reg. 7741) (referred to in this preamble as “Presidential Proclamation 4417”);

Whereas Presidential Proclamation 4417—

(1) states that Japanese Americans were and are loyal people of the United States who have contributed to the well-being and security of the United States;

(2) states that the issuance of Executive Order 9066 was a grave mistake in United States history; and

(3) resolves that actions such as the actions authorized by Executive Order 9066 shall never happen again;

Whereas in 1980, Congress established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to investigate the circumstances surrounding the issuance of Executive Order 9066;

Whereas in 1983, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians issued a report entitled “Personal Justice Denied” in which the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians concluded that—

(1) the promulgation of Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity; and

(2) the decision to issue Executive Order 9066 was shaped by “race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership”;

Whereas, on August 10, 1988, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (Public Law 100–383; 102 Stat. 903) was enacted—

(1) to apologize for “fundamental violations of the basic civil liberties and constitutional rights of these individuals of Japanese ancestry”; and

(2) to establish the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, to ensure that “the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal, and incarceration of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered, and so that the causes and circumstances of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood”;

Whereas the terrorist attacks carried out in the United States on September 11, 2001, have led to heightened levels of suspicion and hate crimes, xenophobia, and bigotry directed toward the Arab, Middle Eastern, South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu American communities, including—

(1) on August 5, 2012, an attack on the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, which led to several injuries and the death of 6 Sikh Americans; and

(2) on February 10, 2015, the execution-style shooting of 3 Muslim American students in Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and

Whereas the terrorist attacks carried out in Paris, France, on November 5, 2015, have led to renewed calls from public officials and figures to register Muslim Americans and bar millions from entering the United States based solely on the religion of those individuals, repeating the mistakes of 1942: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the historical significance of Feb-
3 ruary 19, 1942, as the date on which President
4 Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order
5 9066 (7 Fed. Reg. 1407; relating to authorizing the
6 Secretary of War to prescribe military areas) (re-
7 ferred to in this resolving clause as “Executive
8 Order 9066”), which restricted the freedom of Japa-
9 nese Americans;

10 (2) recognizes the historical significance of Feb-
11 ruary 19, 1976, as the date on which President Ger-
12 ald Ford issued Presidential Proclamation 4417 (41
13 Fed. Reg. 7741), which formally terminated Execu-
14 tive Order 9066;

15 (3) supports the goals of the Japanese Amer-
16 ican community in recognizing a National Day of
17 Remembrance to increase public awareness about

1 the unjust measures taken to restrict the freedom of
2 Japanese Americans during World War II;

3 (4) expresses the sense that the National Day
4 of Remembrance is an opportunity—

5 (A) to reflect on the importance of uphold-
6 ing justice and civil liberties for all people of
7 the United States; and

8 (B) to oppose hate, xenophobia, and big-
9 otry;

10 (5) recognizes the positive contributions that
11 people of the United States of every race, ethnicity,
12 religion, and national origin have made to the
13 United States;

14 (6) steadfastly confirms the dedication of the
15 Senate to the rights and dignity of all people of the
16 United States; and

17 (7) expresses the sense that policies that dis-
18 criminate against any individual based on the actual
19 or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or reli-
20 gion of that individual would be—

21 (A) a repetition of the mistakes of Execu-
22 tive Order 9066; and

23 (B) contrary to the values of the United
24 States.

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