

108TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 15

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the Republic of India is the world's largest democracy;

Whereas on January 26, 1950, India adopted its Constitution, which formalized India as a parliamentary democracy;

Whereas the celebration of India's Republic Day on January 26th is the second most important national holiday after Independence Day;

Whereas the framers of India's Constitution were greatly influenced by the American Founding Fathers James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Adams;

Whereas among the rights and freedoms provided to the people of India under its Constitution is universal suffrage for all men and women over the age of eighteen;

Whereas India's Constitution adopted the American ideals of equality for all citizens, regardless of faith, gender, or ethnicity;

Whereas the basic freedoms we cherish in America such as the freedom of speech, freedom of association, and freedom of religion are also recognized in India;

Whereas Mohandas Mahatma Gandhi is recognized around the world as the father of India's nonviolent struggle for independence;

Whereas people of many faiths, including Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians, were united in securing India's freedom from colonial rule and have all served in various capacities in high-ranking government positions;

Whereas the Republic of India has faithfully adhered to the principles of democracy by continuing to hold elections on a regular basis on the local, regional, and national levels;

Whereas the people of the United States and the Republic of India have a common bond of shared values and a strong commitment to democratic principles; and

Whereas President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee are elected leaders of the world's two

largest democracies and are actively cultivating strong ties between the United States and India: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) commends India on its celebration of Re-
4 public Day; and

5 (2) reiterates its support for continued strong
6 relations between the United States and India.

Passed the House of Representatives March 11,
2004.

Attest:

Clerk.

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Commending India on its celebration of Republic
Day.