

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 288

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring Seeds of Peace for its promotion of understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace among youth from the Middle East and other regions of conflict.

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Whereas Seeds of Peace, founded by John Wallach in 1993, is a program that brings together young people from regions of conflict to study and learn about coexistence and conflict resolution;

Whereas although the original focus of Seeds of Peace was to bring Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and Egyptian youth together, the program has expanded over the past

decade to involve youths from other regions of conflict, including from Greece, Turkey and divided Cyprus, the Balkans, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan;

Whereas these young people study and learn primarily at a summer camp operated by Seeds of Peace in Otisfield, Maine, and also through its regional programs such as the Jerusalem Center for Coexistence;

Whereas Seeds of Peace works to dispel fear, mistrust, and prejudice, which are root causes of violence and conflict, and to build a new generation of leaders who are committed to achieving peace;

Whereas Seeds of Peace reveals the human face of those whom youth have been taught to hate, by engaging campers in both guided coexistence sessions and ordinary summer camp activities such as living together in cabins, sharing meals, canoeing, swimming, playing sports, and creative exploration through the arts and computers;

Whereas the Arab-Israeli conflict is currently at a critical juncture, and sustained progress towards peace depends on the emergence of a new generation of leaders who will choose dialogue, friendship, and openness over violence and hatred;

Whereas Seeds of Peace provides year-round opportunities for former participants to build on the relationships they have forged at camp, so that the learning processes begun at camp can continue back in the participants' home countries, where they are most needed;

Whereas Seeds of Peace is strongly supported by participating governments and many world leaders;

Whereas previous Federal funding for Seeds of Peace demonstrates its recognized importance in promoting United States foreign policy goals; and

Whereas it is especially important to reaffirm that youth must be involved in long-term, visionary solutions to conflicts perpetuated by cycles of violence: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) honors the accomplishments of Seeds of
4 Peace for promoting understanding, reconciliation,
5 acceptance, coexistence, and peace among youth
6 from the Middle East and other regions of conflict
7 around the world; and

8 (2) offers Seeds of Peace as a model of hope
9 that living together in peace and security is possible.

Passed the House of Representatives November 19,
2003.

Attest:

Clerk.