

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 525

Designating September 2018 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2018

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating September 2018 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

Whereas, 2,000 years after the ancient Greeks laid the groundwork for democracy, the founders of the United States built an even greater system of government, a democratic republic, propelling the United States to become the most advanced nation in human history;

Whereas the model of government of the United States has been reproduced around the world;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, despite the expansion of democracy worldwide, today more than 1 in 3 people in the world do not live in states considered free;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, with the addition of the Reconstruction Era amendments, including the 14th and 15th Amendments, and the 19th Amendment, enshrine the rights and civil liberties of citizens of the United States, including the right to vote in free and fair elections;

Whereas the perpetuation of the ideals of democracy does not happen on its own, and can be stalled or reversed;

Whereas surveys show that citizens of the United States are losing faith in the democratic system;

Whereas, according to a study published in the Journal of Democracy—

(1) 91 percent of young people in the United States in the 1930s thought it “essential” to live in a democracy;

(2) only 30 percent of young people in the United States in 2018 think that it is “essential” to live in a democracy; and

(3) 24 percent of young people in the United States in 2018 think that democracy is a “bad” or “very bad” way of running the country;

Whereas Freedom House concluded that “Democracy as the world’s dominant form of government is under greater threat than at any point in the last 25 years”;

Whereas former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor said “The practice of democracy is not passed down through the gene pool. It must be taught and learned anew by each generation of citizens”;

Whereas President John F. Kennedy said “Democracy is never a final achievement. It is a call to effort, to sacrifice, and a willingness to live and to die in its defense”;

Whereas President Ronald Reagan said “Democracy is worth dying for, because it’s the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man”;

Whereas World War II demonstrated the fragility of democracy and its accompanying civilized life;

Whereas British Prime Minister Winston Churchill observed that “Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others that have ever been tried”;

Whereas President George Washington said the United States must recognize the immense value of the national Union and work towards its preservation with “jealous anxiety” and wrote that the security of a free Constitution may be accomplished by “teaching the people themselves to know and to value their own rights”;

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson wrote “Educate and inform the whole mass of the people They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty”;

and

Whereas evidence of the diminution of strong support for democratic principles in recent years among citizens of the United States suggests the government of the United States must once more teach and educate the people by taking appropriate actions to highlight and emphasize the importance of democratic principles and their essential role in our freedoms and way of life: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates September 2018 as “National

3 Democracy Month”;

1 (2) encourages States and local governments to
2 designate September 2018 as “National Democracy
3 Month”;

4 (3) recognizes the celebration of “National De-
5 mocracy Month” as a time to reflect on the con-
6 tributions of the system of government of the United
7 States to a more free and stable world; and

8 (4) encourages the people of the United States
9 to observe “National Democracy Month” with appro-
10 priate ceremonies and activities that—

11 (A) provide appreciation for the system of
12 government of the United States; and

13 (B) demonstrate that the people of the
14 United States shall never forget the sacrifices
15 made by past generations of people of the
16 United States to preserve the freedoms and
17 principles of the United States.

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