

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 356

Expressing support for the designation of May 4, 2023, as a “National Day of Reason” and recognizing the central importance of reason in the betterment of humanity.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 2, 2023

Mr. RASKIN (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. BROWNLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of May 4, 2023, as a “National Day of Reason” and recognizing the central importance of reason in the betterment of humanity.

Whereas the application of reason has been the essential precondition for humanity’s extraordinary scientific, medical, technological, and social progress since before the founding of our country;

Whereas reason provides vital hope today for confronting the environmental crises of our day, including the civilizational emergency of climate change, and for cultivating the rule of law, democratic institutions, justice, and peace among nations;

Whereas the United States founders insisted upon the primacy of reason and knowledge in public life, and drafted the Constitution to prevent official establishment of religion and to protect freedom of thought, speech, and inquiry in civil society;

Whereas James Madison, author of the First Amendment and fourth President of the United States, stated “the advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty”, and “knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives”; and

Whereas May 4, 2023, would be an appropriate date to designate as a “National Day of Reason”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the designation of a “National
3 Day of Reason”; and

4 (2) encourages all citizens, residents, and visi-
5 tors to join in observing this day and focusing on the
6 central importance of reason, critical thought, the
7 scientific method, and free inquiry to resolving social
8 problems and promoting the welfare of humankind.

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