

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 185

Expressing the sense of the Congress on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and recommitting the United States to the principles expressed in the Universal Declaration.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 7, 1997

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. PORTER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. LEACH, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SNYDER, and Ms. PELOSI) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and recommitting the United States to the principles expressed in the Universal Declaration.

Whereas on December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, after it was adopted by the General Assembly without a dissenting vote;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was modeled on the Bill of Rights of the United States Con-

stitution and it was developed with strong United States leadership, and in particular the personal involvement of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who served as Chair of the United Nations Human Rights Commission;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights sets forth fundamental human rights including the right to life, liberty, and security of person; freedom of religion; freedom of opinion and expression; freedom of assembly; self-government through free elections; freedom from slavery and torture; the right to a fair trial and to equality before the law; presumption of innocence until proved guilty; the right not to be subjected to retroactive laws; freedom of movement within one's state and freedom to leave or return to it; the right of asylum; the right to a nationality; the right to found a family; the right to privacy; the right to own property; to social security and to work; the right to form and join trade unions; the right to an adequate standard of living, to education, and to rest and leisure; and the right to participation in the cultural life of the community;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has become the most widely accepted statement identifying human rights and is referred to in resolutions and covenants adopted by numerous international organizations, in multilateral and bilateral treaties, in national constitutions, and in local laws and decrees; and

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, though it is not a treaty or a binding international agreement, it is "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations": Now, therefore, be it

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

3            (1) reaffirms the commitment of the United  
4 States to the fundamental human rights enunciated  
5 half a century ago in the Universal Declaration of  
6 Human Rights, which are a reflection of the fun-  
7 damental civil and human rights that are enshrined  
8 in the Declaration of Independence and in the Unit-  
9 ed States Constitution, and in particular in the Bill  
10 of Rights;

11           (2) expresses the determination to work for the  
12 implementation of and observance of international  
13 human rights and international human rights agree-  
14 ments; and

15           (3) urges the government leaders of all nations,  
16 representatives of private international human rights  
17 organizations, business and labor leaders, local gov-  
18 ernment officials, and all Americans to use the Uni-  
19 versal Declaration of Human Rights as an instru-  
20 ment to promote tolerance, understanding, and  
21 greater respect for human rights.

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