



H.Res. 1357 – Recognizing the significance of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 by President Ronald Reagan and the greatness of America in her ability to admit and remedy past mistakes

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1357 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA) on July 17, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1357 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 29, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1357 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Reaffirms our Nation's commitment to equal justice under the law for all people in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988; and
- Continues to support the congressional goal embodied in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that all persons living under protection of the United States Constitution have a right to enjoy freedom and equality without the constraint of prejudice and discrimination or the lack of due process.

BACKGROUND

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942. This Executive Order authorized the internment of approximately 120,000 Japanese-Americans and legal resident aliens in confinement sites during World War II, without due process. No Japanese-American confined during this period was ever convicted of treason, espionage, or sabotage against the United States. During the war, many Japanese-Americans served in the U.S. military in units such as the 100th Infantry Battalion and the Army Air Corps.

On August 10, 1988, President Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. This bipartisan legislation acknowledged the “fundamental injustices” of the Japanese-American internment and apologized on behalf of the United States for this action. Signing the bill, President Reagan remarked, “Here we admit a wrong. Here we affirm our commitment as a Nation to equal justice under the law.”

STAFF CONTACT

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