



H.Res. 747 – Recognizing the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 747 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 Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) on October 16, 2007. The Committee on Foreign Affairs agreed to seek consideration under suspension of the rules, by unanimous consent.

H.Res. 747 is expected to be considered on the floor on October 29, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 747 resolves that Congress:

- During this time of celebration, in order to demonstrate support for Indian Americans and the Indian Diaspora throughout the world, recognizes Diwali as an important festival;
- Acknowledges the international religious and historical importance of the festival of Diwali;
- Recognizes and appreciates the religious diversity in both India and the United States and throughout the world;
- Acknowledges and supports the new relationship of collaboration and dialogue in international efforts between the United States and India; and
- In observance of and out of respect for the start of Diwali, the festival of lights, acknowledges the onset of Diwali and expresses its deepest respect to Indian Americans and the Indian Diaspora throughout the world on this significant occasion.

BACKGROUND

Diwali is celebrated annually by Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains throughout the United States and the world. There are more than 2 million Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains in the United States.

Diwali is a festival of lights that falls on the last day of the last month in the lunar calendar. During Diwali, celebrants light small oil lamps that they place around the home, and pray for health, knowledge, and peace.

STAFF CONTACT

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