

105<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4154

To declare rights to religious liberty.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 1998

Mr. ADERHOLT (for himself, Mr. DELAY, Mr. RILEY, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PICKERING, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. GRAHAM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To declare rights to religious liberty.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Ten Commandments  
5       Defense Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds the following:

8               (1) The Declaration of Independence declares  
9       that governments are instituted to secure certain  
10       unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the  
11       pursuit of happiness, with which all human beings

1 are endowed by their Creator and to which they are  
2 entitled by the laws of nature and of nature's God.

3 (2) The organic laws of the United States Code  
4 and the constitutions of every State, using various  
5 expressions, recognize God as the source of the  
6 blessings of liberty.

7 (3) The First Amendment to the Constitution  
8 of the United States secures rights against laws re-  
9 specting an establishment of religion or prohibiting  
10 the free exercise thereof made by the United States  
11 Government.

12 (4) The rights secured under the First Amend-  
13 ment have been interpreted by courts of the United  
14 States Government to be included among the provi-  
15 sions of the Fourteenth Amendment.

16 (5) The Tenth Amendment reserves to the  
17 States respectively the powers not delegated to the  
18 United States Government nor prohibited to the  
19 States.

20 (6) Disputes and doubts have arisen with re-  
21 spect to public displays of the Ten Commandments  
22 and to other public expression of religious faith.

23 (7) Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment  
24 grants the Congress power to enforce the provisions  
25 of the said amendment.

1           (8) Article I, Section 8, grants the Congress  
2           power to constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme  
3           Court, and Article III, Section 1, grants the Con-  
4           gress power to ordain and establish courts in which  
5           the judicial power of the United States Government  
6           shall be vested.

7 **SEC. 3. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RIGHTS DECLARED.**

8           (a) DISPLAY OF TEN COMMANDMENTS.—The power  
9           to display the Ten Commandments on or within property  
10          owned or administered by the several States or political  
11          subdivisions thereof is hereby declared to be among the  
12          powers reserved to the States respectively.

13          (b) EXPRESSION OF RELIGIOUS FAITH.—The expres-  
14          sion of religious faith by individual persons on or within  
15          property owned or administered by the several States or  
16          political subdivisions thereof is hereby—

17                (1) declared to be among the rights secured  
18                against laws respecting an establishment of religion  
19                or prohibiting the free exercise of religion made or  
20                enforced by the United States Government or by any  
21                department or executive or judicial officer thereof;  
22                and

23                (2) declared to be among the liberties of which  
24                no State shall deprive any person without due proc-

1        ess of law made in pursuance of powers reserved to  
2        the States respectively.

3        (c) EXERCISE OF JUDICIAL POWER.—The courts  
4        constituted, ordained, and established by the Congress  
5        shall exercise the judicial power in a manner consistent  
6        with the foregoing declarations.

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