

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 125

Recognizing the founding of the Alliance for Reform and Democracy in Asia, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2001

Mr. DREIER (for himself and Mr. LANTOS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the founding of the Alliance for Reform and Democracy in Asia, and for other purposes.

Whereas authoritarian governments in Asia deny people basic freedoms of belief, speech, and association and engage in intimidation and other human rights abuses to ensure that any political opposition is nonexistent or weak;

Whereas established and emerging democracies in Asia offer hope and inspiration to democrats and reformers across the region;

Whereas democracy activists in Asia are firmly committed to advancing democracy, human rights, good governance, and the rule of law, often at great personal risk;

Whereas leading democrats and reformers recently created the Alliance for Reform and Democracy in Asia (ARDA)

during a meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, as a broad-based, nonviolent movement to encourage and accelerate the march of democracy in the region;

Whereas the members of ARDA have rejected as false any definition of so-called “Asian values” that does not include respect for human rights, democracy, freedom, and good governance;

Whereas the members of the ARDA have pledged in a declaration of unity to promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Asia and to support one another in times of political crisis;

Whereas the members of ARDA have repeatedly met (most recently in Mongolia and Taiwan) to reaffirm their collective commitment to democracy and human rights in Asia; and

Whereas the Congress has recognized that the establishment of democratic governments in Asia is vital to United States national security interests: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) recognizes and commends the members of
4 the Alliance for Reform and Democracy in Asia
5 (ARDA) for joining forces in their common struggle
6 for freedom and the rule of law;

7 (2) calls upon Asian governments to heed
8 ARDA’s calls for political and legal reforms and to
9 engage ARDA members in dialog; and

1 (3) calls for an immediate end to human rights
2 violations committed against Asian democracy activ-
3 ists and reformers.

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