

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 512

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the first national elections in the Republic of India and commending the Government and people of India for maintaining a commitment to democracy for half a century.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 16, 2002

Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. PALLONE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the first national elections in the Republic of India and commending the Government and people of India for maintaining a commitment to democracy for half a century.

Whereas in February 1952 the Republic of India held its first general elections for Parliament;

Whereas 4½ years earlier, in August 1947, India achieved independence through largely nonviolent resistance after centuries of living under colonial rule;

Whereas in January 1950 India adopted a constitution, with many provisions influenced and inspired by the work of the Founding Fathers of the United States;

Whereas among the rights and freedoms provided to the people of India under the constitution is universal suffrage for all men and women over the age of 18;

Whereas with more than 1,000,000,000 people, India is the world's largest democracy;

Whereas in the half-century since its first elections, India has on a regular basis held elections for governments at the local, regional, and national levels;

Whereas elections in India provide voters with a choice between thousands of candidates representing a vast array of political parties without limitations or restrictions on participation;

Whereas the election process in India is controlled by an independent elections commission that ensures that elections are held in a free and fair manner;

Whereas the Department of State and a wide range of international organizations have regularly determined the elections in India to be free and fair;

Whereas India's most recent national parliamentary elections in 1999 attracted more than 600,000,000 voters;

Whereas in February 2002, on the 50th anniversary of India's first national elections, voters went to the polls to elect members of the state assemblies in four of India's states, Manipur, Punjab, Uttaranchal, and Uttar Pradesh; and

Whereas despite the ongoing threat of terrorism from outside forces, India moved forward with state assembly elections in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and completed the election process in a free and fair manner: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) commends the Government and people of
4 the Republic of India for a 50-year tradition of free
5 and fair elections and the orderly transfer of polit-
6 ical power; and

7 (2) reiterates its support for continued close
8 ties between the United States and India in the full
9 range of issues, and, particularly, in joint efforts to
10 promote democracy around the world.

○