

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 4828

AN ACT

To reaffirm the Declaration of Independence as an Organic
Law of the United States.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Declaration of Inde-
3 pendence Reaffirmation Act of 2026”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress
7 adopted the Declaration of Independence.

8 (2) The Declaration of Independence announced
9 that the United States of America were free and
10 independent States.

11 (3) The Declaration of Independence declares
12 that all men are created equal, that they are en-
13 dowed by their Creator with certain unalienable
14 rights, and that governments derive their just pow-
15 ers from the consent of the governed.

16 (4) The Declaration of Independence is recog-
17 nized among the Organic Laws of the United States.

18 (5) The Northwest Ordinance was adopted by
19 the Congress of the Confederation in 1787, and was
20 thereafter reenacted by the First Congress in 1789,
21 so that it could continue to have full effect under the
22 Constitution of the United States.

23 (6) Congress has authority to recognize, reaf-
24 firm, and carry forward the foundational laws and
25 principles of the American political order.

1 (7) The 250th anniversary of American inde-
2 pendence calls upon Congress to reaffirm the Dec-
3 laration of Independence as the charter of American
4 sovereignty, natural rights, equal citizenship, and
5 government by consent.

6 (8) The Constitution of the United States gives
7 lawful form and enduring structure to the principles
8 of republican self-government announced in the Dec-
9 laration of Independence.

10 (9) The Declaration of Independence and the
11 Constitution of the United States together establish
12 a political order in which the people are sovereign
13 and public officers are their servants.

14 (10) The Declaration of Independence pre-
15 supposes that Americans are “one people” with the
16 right to govern themselves as a distinct political
17 community, to preserve their national independence,
18 and to secure the rights and liberties of their own
19 citizens.

20 **SEC. 3. REAFFIRMATION OF THE DECLARATION OF INDE-**
21 **PENDENCE.**

22 Congress reaffirms and re-adopts the Declaration of
23 Independence as an Organic Law of the United States and
24 as the enduring charter of American independence, na-

1 tional sovereignty, natural rights, equal citizenship, and
2 government by consent.

3 **SEC. 4. TEXT OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.**

4 In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Amer-
5 ican independence, Congress sets forth the text of the Dec-
6 laration of Independence as follows:

7 “The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united
8 States of America,

9 “When in the Course of human events, it be-
10 comes necessary for one people to dissolve the polit-
11 ical bands which have connected them with another,
12 and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the
13 separate and equal station to which the Laws of Na-
14 ture and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent re-
15 spect to the opinions of mankind requires that they
16 should declare the causes which impel them to the
17 separation.

18 “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that
19 all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by
20 their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that
21 among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of
22 Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Govern-
23 ments are instituted among Men, deriving their just
24 powers from the consent of the governed,—That
25 whenever any Form of Government becomes destruc-

1 tive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to
2 alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government,
3 laying its foundation on such principles, and orga-
4 nizing its powers in such form, as to them shall
5 seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happi-
6 ness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Govern-
7 ments long established should not be changed for
8 light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all ex-
9 perience hath shewn, that mankind are more dis-
10 posed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to
11 right themselves, by abolishing the forms to which
12 they are accustomed. But when a long train of
13 abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the
14 same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under
15 absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty,
16 to throw off such Government, and to provide new
17 Guards for their future security.—Such has been the
18 patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now
19 the necessity which constrains them to alter their
20 former Systems of Government. The history of the
21 present King of Great Britain is a history of re-
22 peated injuries and usurpations, all having, in direct
23 object, the establishment of an absolute Tyranny
24 over these States. To prove this, let Facts be sub-
25 mitted to a candid world.

1 “He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most
2 wholesome and necessary for the public good.

3 “He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws
4 of immediate and pressing importance, unless sus-
5 pended in their operation till his Assent should be
6 obtained; and, when so suspended, he has utterly ne-
7 glected to attend to them.

8 “He has refused to pass other Laws for the ac-
9 commodation of large districts of people, unless
10 those people would relinquish the Right of Represen-
11 tation in the Legislature; a right inestimable to
12 them, and formidable to tyrants only.

13 “He has called together legislative bodies at
14 places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the
15 depository of their Public Records, for the sole pur-
16 pose of fatiguing them into compliance with his
17 measures.

18 “He has dissolved Representative Houses re-
19 peatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his inva-
20 sions on the rights of the people.

21 “He has refused for a long time, after such dis-
22 solutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the
23 Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have
24 returned to the People at large for their exercise; the
25 State remaining, in the meantime, exposed to all the

1 dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions
2 within.

3 “He has endeavoured to prevent the population
4 of these States; for that purpose, obstructing the
5 Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to
6 pass others to encourage their migrations hither,
7 and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of
8 Lands.

9 “He has obstructed the Administration of Jus-
10 tice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing
11 Judiciary Powers.

12 “He has made Judges dependent on his Will
13 alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount
14 and payment of their salaries.

15 “He has erected a multitude of New Offices,
16 and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our
17 People, and eat out their substance.

18 “He has kept among us, in times of peace,
19 Standing Armies, without the Consent of our legisla-
20 tures.

21 “He has affected to render the Military inde-
22 pendent of and superior to the Civil Power.

23 “He has combined with others to subject us to
24 a jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution and

1 unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to
2 their Acts of pretended Legislation:

3 “For quartering large bodies of armed
4 troops among us:

5 “For protecting them, by a mock Trial,
6 from punishment for any Murders which they
7 should commit on the Inhabitants of these
8 States:

9 “For cutting off our Trade with all parts
10 of the world:

11 “For imposing Taxes on us without our
12 Consent:

13 “For depriving us, in many cases, of the
14 benefits of Trial by Jury:

15 “For transporting us beyond Seas to be
16 tried for pretended offences:

17 “For abolishing the free System of English
18 Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing
19 therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging
20 its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an ex-
21 ample and fit instrument for introducing the
22 same absolute rule into these Colonies:

23 “For taking away our Charters, abolishing
24 our most valuable Laws, and altering fun-
25 damentally the Forms of our Governments:

1 “For suspending our own Legislatures,
2 and declaring themselves invested with power to
3 legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

4 “He has abdicated Government here, by declar-
5 ing us out of his Protection and waging War against
6 us.

7 “He has plundered our seas, ravaged our
8 Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of
9 our people.

10 “He is, at this time, transporting large Armies
11 of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of
12 death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun, with
13 circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy scarcely par-
14 alleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally un-
15 worthy the Head of a civilized nation.

16 “He has constrained our fellow Citizens, taken
17 Captive on the high Seas, to bear Arms against their
18 Country, to become the executioners of their friends
19 and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

20 “He has excited domestic insurrections amongst
21 us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants
22 of our frontiers the merciless Indian Savages, whose
23 known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruc-
24 tion of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

1 “In every stage of these Oppressions, We have
2 Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms:
3 Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by
4 repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus
5 marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is
6 unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

7 “Nor have We been wanting in attentions to
8 our British brethren. We have warned them, from
9 time to time, of attempts by their legislature to ex-
10 tend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have
11 reminded them of the circumstances of our emigra-
12 tion and settlement here. We have appealed to their
13 native Justice and Magnanimity, and We have con-
14 jured them, by the ties of our common kindred, to
15 disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably
16 interrupt our connections and correspondence. They,
17 too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and of
18 consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the
19 necessity which denounces our Separation, and hold
20 them, as We hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in
21 War, in Peace Friends.

22 “We, therefore, the Representatives of the
23 united States of America, in General Congress as-
24 sembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the
25 world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the

1 Name and by the Authority of the good People of
2 these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That
3 these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be,
4 Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved
5 from all Allegiance to the British Crown; and that
6 all political connection between them and the State
7 of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dis-
8 solved; and that, as Free and Independent States,
9 they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace,
10 contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and do all
11 other Acts and Things which Independent States
12 may of right do.

13 “And for the support of this Declaration, with
14 a firm reliance on the protection of divine Provi-
15 dence, We mutually pledge to each other our Lives,
16 our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”.

Passed the Senate June 18, 2026.

Attest:

Secretary.

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