

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 34

Recognizing the rich history, heritage, and strategic importance of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Marshallese population residing in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2018

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. COTTON) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the rich history, heritage, and strategic importance of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Marshallese population residing in the United States.

Whereas the Republic of the Marshall Islands—

(1) is a sovereign country in free association with the United States under the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (referred to in this preamble as the “Compact”), approved in the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–188; 117 Stat. 2720), which—

(A) is set to expire in 2023; and

(B) authorizes economic assistance, through Federal grants and programs, to persons in the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

(2) has full authority and responsibility over security and defense matters relating to the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

Whereas, under the Compact, eligible citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands may reside, work, and study in the United States without a visa and may serve in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas an estimated $\frac{1}{3}$ of the population of the Republic of the Marshall Islands has relocated to the United States; and

Whereas Marshallese individuals who live in the United States—

(1) offer positive economic and cultural benefits to the communities in which those individuals live;

(2) pay Federal and State taxes but are not eligible for benefits under—

(A) the Medicare program established under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); or

(B) the Medicaid program established under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.); and

(3) were undercounted in the 2010 census and, as a result, areas where those individuals live are underserved by the Federal Government: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) commends—

1 (A) the rich history and heritage of the
2 Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

3 (B) citizens of the Republic of the Mar-
4 shall Islands who live in the United States for
5 the contributions of those individuals to—

6 (i) the communities in which those in-
7 dividuals live; and

8 (ii) the national defense of the United
9 States through their service in the Armed
10 Forces of the United States;

11 (2) recognizes—

12 (A) the strategic importance of the Repub-
13 lic of the Marshall Islands; and

14 (B) the importance of the upcoming re-
15 negotiation of the Compact of Free Association
16 between the Government of the United States
17 and the Government of the Republic of the
18 Marshall Islands; and

19 (3) encourages a continued commitment to im-
20 prove census data to better serve citizens of the Re-
21 public of the Marshall Islands who live in the United
22 States.

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