

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2045

To defend the Ten Commandments.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2003

Mr. ADERHOLT (for himself, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BONNER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CANNON, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. CRANE, Mr. DELAY, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. HART, Mr. HAYES, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. KLINE, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. OTTER, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. TERRY, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To defend the Ten Commandments.

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 of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Declaration of Independence declares
4 that governments are instituted to secure certain
5 unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the
6 pursuit of happiness, with which all human beings
7 are endowed by their Creator and to which they are
8 entitled by the laws of nature and of nature's God.

9 (2) The organic laws of the United States Code
10 and the constitutions of every State, using various
11 expressions, recognize God as the source of the
12 blessings of liberty.

13 (3) The First Amendment to the Constitution
14 of the United States secures rights against laws re-
15 specting an establishment of religion or prohibiting
16 the free exercise thereof made by the United States
17 Government.

18 (4) The rights secured under the first amend-
19 ment have been interpreted by courts of the United
20 States Government to be included among the provi-
21 sions of the fourteenth amendment.

22 (5) The tenth amendment reserves to the States
23 respectively the powers not delegated to the United
24 States Government nor prohibited to the States.

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

4 (7) Section 5 of the fourteenth amendment
5 grants the Congress power to enforce the provisions
6 of the said amendment.

7 (8) Article I, section 8, grants the Congress
8 power to constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme
9 Court, and article III, section 1, grants the Congress
10 power to ordain and establish courts in which the ju-
11 dicial power of the United States Government shall
12 be vested.

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

14 (a) DISPLAY OF TEN COMMANDMENTS.—The power
15 to display the Ten Commandments on or within property
16 owned or administered by the several States or political
17 subdivisions thereof is hereby declared to be among the
18 powers reserved to the States respectively.

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

23 (1) declared to be among the rights secured
24 against laws respecting an establishment of religion
25 or prohibiting the free exercise of religion made or

1 enforced by the United States Government or by any
2 department or executive or judicial officer thereof;
3 and

4 (2) declared to be among the liberties of which
5 no State shall deprive any person without due pro-
6 cess of law made in pursuance of powers reserved to
7 the States respectively.

8 (c) EXERCISE OF JUDICIAL POWER.—The courts
9 constituted, ordained, and established by the Congress
10 shall exercise the judicial power in a manner consistent
11 with the foregoing declarations.

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