

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5904

To amend title 5, United States Code, to establish Deepāvāli, also known as “Diwali”, as a Federal holiday, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 5, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. BERA, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, Ms. ROSS, Mr. COSTA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. LIEU, Mr. EVANS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. OMAR, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. DELBENE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To amend title 5, United States Code, to establish Deepāvāli, also known as “Diwali”, as a Federal holiday, and for other purposes.

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 “Deepāvāli Day Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DEEPĀVĀLI DAY.**

6 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Deepāvali, also known as the “Festival of
2 Lights”, is celebrated as a day of thanksgiving and
3 the beginning of the New Year by more than six mil-
4 lion Americans, including Hindu Americans, Bud-
5 dhist Americans, Sikh Americans, Jain Americans,
6 Indo-Caribbean Americans, and non-secular Asian
7 Americans.

8 (2) Deepāvali falls on the last day of the last
9 month or the New Moon Day in the month of
10 Kārtika which occurs during October or November
11 in the Vedic lunar calendar.

12 (3) Deepāvali signifies the victory of light and
13 knowledge over darkness and ignorance and is an
14 annual time for celebration, reflection, prayer, and
15 gatherings with family, friends, and community.

16 (4) The Deepāvali holiday celebrates values that
17 are aligned with the democratic principles of the
18 United States, including the triumph of knowledge,
19 light, justice, and freedom over darkness, injustice,
20 tyranny, fear, and oppression.

21 **SEC. 3. DEEPĀVALI DAY.**

22 Section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, is
23 amended by inserting after the item relating to Columbus
24 Day the following:

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1 “Deepāvali Day.”.

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