



SPONSOR: Sen. Bonini & Rep. Smyk
Sens. Hocker, Lawson, Pettyjohn, Richardson, Wilson;
Reps. Baumbach, Briggs King, Collins, Gray, Osienski,
D. Short

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53

DESIGNATING OCTOBER 18-24, 2021 AS "FREE SPEECH WEEK" IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, our Founding Fathers created and adopted the United States Constitution in 1787, thereby setting
2 forth the supreme law of the United States of America; and

3 WHEREAS, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, written by James Madison to guarantee individual
4 freedoms, were ratified in 1791 and became known collectively as the Bill of Rights; and

5 WHEREAS, the First Amendment states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or
6 prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people
7 peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances"; and

8 WHEREAS, freedom of speech is a right guaranteed to all Americans; and

9 WHEREAS, Free Speech Week, a national, annual, non-partisan, commemorative event, takes place during the
10 third full week of October to raise awareness of the importance of free speech and a free press in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Free Speech Week is designed to be an inclusive celebration for all Americans, and as such, a wide
12 variety of organizations, schools and individuals across the country will conduct activities and events devoted to free
13 speech topics to mark the week; and

14 WHEREAS, Free Speech Week is also an opportunity to share information with the public and the media as a way
15 of furthering the vision of our Founding Fathers; and

16 WHEREAS, President Franklin Roosevelt stated, "Where freedom of religion has been attacked, the attack has
17 come from sources opposed to democracy. Where democracy has been overthrown, the spirit of free worship has
18 disappeared. And where religion and democracy have vanished, good faith and reason in international affairs have given
19 way to strident ambition and brute force"; and

20 WHEREAS, Benjamin Franklin in 1722 wrote, "Whoever would overthrow the Liberty of a Nation, must begin by
21 subduing the Freeness of Speech"; and

22 WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson in 1786 wrote, "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot
23 be limited without being lost."

24 NOW, THEREFORE:

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 151st General Assembly, the House of Representatives concurring therein,
26 that October 18-24, 2021 be recognized as "Free Speech Week" in the State of Delaware.

SYNOPSIS

This resolution designates October 18-24, 2021 as "Free Speech Week" in the State of Delaware.

Author: Senator Bonini