

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 638 Session of
2002

INTRODUCED BY HANNA, JUNE 27, 2002

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 27, 2002

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2 WHEREAS, The United States was founded on religious freedom
3 by founders, many of whom were deeply religious; and

4 WHEREAS, The First Amendment to the Constitution of the
5 United States embodies principles intended to guarantee freedom
6 of religion by conferring the free exercise of religion and by
7 prohibiting the government from establishing a religion; and

8 WHEREAS, The Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis
9 Bellamy, a Baptist minister, and first published in the
10 September 8, 1892, issue of The Youth's Companion; and

11 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States in 1954 added the
12 words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance; and

13 WHEREAS, The Pledge of Allegiance has for almost 50 years
14 included references to the United States flag, to our country
15 having been established as a union "under God" and to our
16 country having been dedicated to securing "liberty and justice
17 for all"; and

1 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of
2 Pennsylvania believes that the Pledge of Allegiance is not an
3 unconstitutional expression; and

4 WHEREAS, Patriotic songs, engravings on United States legal
5 tender, and engravings on state buildings also contain general
6 references to "God"; and

7 WHEREAS, In accordance with decisions of the United States
8 Supreme Court, public school students cannot be forced to recite
9 the Pledge of Allegiance without violating their First Amendment
10 rights; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
12 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress to defend
13 the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance by passing a
14 constitutional amendment to allow the Pledge of Allegiance to be
15 recited at all public events and in all public institutions.