

Bill H7781- Support

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in enthusiastic support of the proposed replacement of “Victory Day,” the name of the Rhode Island holiday observed on the second Monday of August, with the title “Peace and Remembrance Day.”

A war that is earnest in its aims would be pursued and reflected upon with regret and somberness. There is nothing to celebrate about avoidable death and destruction, and nothing sincere to gain by continuing to position ourselves as victors, and others as vanquished enemies.

It is painfully clear that the United States has a pattern of othering and marginalizing its own populace, as it did by incarcerating those with Japanese ancestry during WWII. A just society recognizes those injured by its actions and seeks to change. As long as America considers the war a victory, it positions the injured as necessary collateral—which motivates our leaders to pursue these actions again rather than atoning for them.

The consequences of lionizing war and incarceration are evident. This bill provides an opportunity to reflect more carefully on the past, which is crucial in the pursuit of a truly peaceful future.

Sincerely,

Katie Garth

Philadelphia, PA