

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

2 INTRODUCED BY C. PEASE-LOPEZ

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING MONTANA INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO CEASE DISPLAYING THE FLAG
6 OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND INSTEAD FLY THE FREEDOM AND HERITAGE FLAG.

7
8 WHEREAS, displaying the flag of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on university campuses can cause
9 great distress to many members of the Vietnamese American community; and

10 WHEREAS, the flag of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which features a yellow star on a red
11 background, was first adopted by the Indochinese Communist Party in the mid-20th century and represents a
12 source of anguish to countless people who fled to the United States as a welcoming haven of liberty and
13 tolerance; to these esteemed citizens, the display of this flag is interpreted as a lack of respect for their historic
14 struggles; and

15 WHEREAS, approximately 36,000 Montanans served during the Vietnam War and 268 Montanans died
16 as a result of that service; to these respected veterans and their surviving family members, the display of the flag
17 of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam may be perceived as dishonoring their service and sacrifices; and

18 WHEREAS, in contrast, the Freedom and Heritage Flag symbolizes both the Vietnamese cultural heritage
19 and a deeply rooted resilience and yearning for democracy; this flag, which bears three red stripes on a
20 background of golden yellow, was flown for the first time at a ceremony marking the official recognition by France
21 of Vietnamese unity and independence; and

22 WHEREAS, institutions of higher learning can express their respect for Vietnamese American culture and
23 their support for the ideals of liberty and democracy by replacing the flag of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with
24 the Freedom and Heritage Flag.

25
26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
27 STATE OF MONTANA:

28 That the 64th Legislature urges Montana institutions of higher learning to cease displaying the red flag
29 of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and instead fly the golden yellow Freedom and Heritage Flag that has been
30 embraced by the Vietnamese American community.



