



Representative Ashley Carrick

Alaska State House ~ District 35, West Fairbanks

Chair, House State Affairs ~ Co-Chair, House Transportation
Member, House Labor, and Commerce ~ Member, Tribal Affairs

HCR 9 Sponsor Statement

January 20, 2026

Honoring the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and celebrating the 250th birthday of the United States of America.

July 4, 2026, is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the 250th birthday of the United States of America. House Concurrent Resolution 9 celebrates this important milestone by recognizing the 56 patriots that signed the Declaration in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1776. Additionally, this resolution highlights the founding principles upon which the Declaration was written, and upon which America was founded. Those self-evident truths include equality, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. HCR 9 also recognizes efforts over the past 250 years to expand those rights. Those efforts include abolishing slavery, expanding voting rights to women and Americans of all races, expanding civil rights for all citizens, expanding equal rights through continued efforts to ratify the equal rights amendment, and efforts to respect and acknowledge indigenous communities who have stewarded the lands that compose the United States.

During America's semi-quincentennial year, let's come together and celebrate the progress that has been made to fulfill our founding ideals and the efforts to create a more perfect and inclusive union. While celebrating, it is also important to acknowledge the areas in which progress must still be made. Continued effort must be given to expand equality to Americans of all races, genders, ages, national origins, disabilities, and religious affiliations. The courageous act of signing the Declaration that was undertaken in 1776 set the present, and continued pursuit of our founding principles and progress and promise for America.

I hope you will join me in celebrating the 250th birthday of the United States by supporting HCR 9.

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