

# S. RES. 540

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

Whereas cut **flower** growers in the United States are hard-working, dedicated individuals who bring beauty, economic stimulus, and pride to their communities and the nation;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long history of using **flowers** and greens grown in the United States to bring beauty to important events and express affection for loved ones;

Whereas consumers spend almost \$27,000,000,000 each year on **floral** products, including cut **flowers**, garden plants, bedding, and indoor plants;

Whereas nearly 30 percent of households in the United States purchase fresh cut **flowers** and greens from more than 16,000 **florists** and **floral** establishments each year;

Whereas the people of the United States increasingly want to support domestically produced foods and agricultural products and would prefer to buy locally grown **flowers** whenever possible, yet a majority of domestic consumers do not know where the **flowers** they purchase are grown;

Whereas in response to increased demand, the “Certified American Grown **Flowers**” logo was created in July 2014 in order to educate and empower consumers to purchase **flowers** from domestic producers;

Whereas, as of April 2017, millions of stems of domestically grown **flowers** are now “Certified American Grown”;

Whereas domestic **flower** farmers produce thousands of varieties of **flowers** across the United States, such as peonies in Alaska, Gerbera daisies in California, lupines in Maine, tulips in Washington, lilies in Oregon, and larkspur in Texas;

Whereas the 5 **flower** varieties with the highest United States production are tulips, Gerbera daisies, lilies, gladiolas and irises;

Whereas people in every State have access to domestically grown **flowers**, yet only 1 of 5 **flowers** sold in the United States is domestically grown;

Whereas the domestic cut **flower** industry creates almost \$42,000,000 in economic impact daily and supports hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States;

Whereas more people in the United States are expressing interest in growing **flowers** locally, which has resulted in an approximately 20 percent increase in the number of domestic cut **flower** farms between 2007 and 2012;

Whereas most domestic cut **flowers** and greens are sold in the United States within 24 to 48 hours after harvest and last longer than **flowers** shipped longer distances;

Whereas **flowers** grown domestically enhance the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate weddings and births, and honor those who have passed;

Whereas **flower**-giving has been a holiday tradition in the United States for generations;

Whereas **flowers** speak to the beauty of motherhood on Mother's Day and to the spirit of love on Valentine's Day;

Whereas **flowers** are an essential part of other holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa;

Whereas **flowers** help commemorate the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

Whereas the Senate encourages the cultivation of **flowers** in the United States by domestic **flower** farmers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2018 as “American Grown **Flower** Month”;

(2) recognizes that purchasing **flowers** grown in the United States supports the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States;

(3) recognizes that growing **flowers** and greens in the United States is a vital part of the agricultural industry of the United States;

(4) recognizes that cultivating **flowers** domestically enhances the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate holidays and special occasions; and

(5) urges all people of the United States to proactively showcase **flowers** and greens grown in the United States in order to show support for our **flower** farmers, processors, and distributors as well as agriculture in the United States overall.