

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

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By: **Senator Manno**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Acknowledgment of the Sufferings of Sexually Enslaved Women (“Comfort**  
3 **Women”) During World War II**

4 FOR the purpose of commemorating and supporting “comfort women” in their fight for  
5 proper acknowledgment by the Japanese government of the suffering they  
6 endured during their forced sexual slavery in military brothels during World  
7 War II; calling on the Japanese government to accept historical responsibility  
8 for certain actions; providing that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the  
9 Department of Legislative Services to certain individuals; and generally  
10 relating to the acknowledgment of the sufferings of “comfort women” during  
11 their internment in military brothels.

12 WHEREAS, The term “comfort women” is a euphemism used by the Japanese  
13 government to describe women forced into sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese  
14 military between 1932 and 1945; and

15 WHEREAS, The majority of “comfort women” were of Korean or Chinese  
16 descent but women from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines,  
17 Australia, and the Netherlands were also interned in military brothels or “comfort  
18 stations” run directly by the Imperial Japanese military or by private agents working  
19 for the military; and

20 WHEREAS, Some of the women were sold to the “comfort stations” as minors,  
21 others were deceptively recruited by middlemen with the promise of employment and  
22 financial security, and still others were forcibly kidnapped and sent to “work” for  
23 soldiers stationed throughout the Japanese-occupied territories; and

24 WHEREAS, Lack of official documentation, most destroyed on the orders of the  
25 Japanese government after World War II, has made it difficult to know precisely the  
26 total number of “comfort women” enslaved during the War; but most historians and  
27 media sources estimate that about 200,000 young women were kidnapped or  
28 deceptively recruited by soldiers to serve in Japanese military brothels; and



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1           WHEREAS, Approximately three–quarters of the “comfort women” have died as  
2 a direct result of the brutality inflicted on them during their internment, and many of  
3 those who survived were left infertile due to sexual violence or sexually transmitted  
4 diseases; and

5           WHEREAS, Many elderly “comfort women” are now dying without proper  
6 acknowledgment by the Japanese government of the suffering they endured as young  
7 women during their forced internment in military “comfort stations”; and

8           WHEREAS, It is fitting for the General Assembly of Maryland to commemorate  
9 the seventh anniversary of the passage by the United States House of Representatives  
10 of H. Res. 121 (110th) that called on the Japanese government to accept historical  
11 responsibility for the sexual enslavement of “comfort women” by the Imperial  
12 Japanese military and educate future generations about these crimes; now, therefore,  
13 be it

14           RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
15 General Assembly commemorates and supports “comfort women” in their fight for  
16 proper acknowledgment by the Japanese government of the suffering they endured  
17 during their forced sexual slavery in military brothels during World War II and calls  
18 on the Japanese government to accept historical responsibility for the sexual  
19 enslavement of “comfort women” by the Imperial Japanese military and to educate  
20 future generations about these crimes; and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
22 Legislative Services to the Honorable Ahn Ho–young, Ambassador of the Republic of  
23 Korea to the United States, 2450 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C.  
24 20008 and the Honorable Kenichiro Sasae, Ambassador of Japan to the United States,  
25 2520 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20008.