

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY REPRESENTATIVES MCCORMICK, AMEDEE, ADAMS, BACALA, BAGLEY, BUTLER, CARRIER, CORMIER, COUSSAN, CREWS, DEVILLIER, DUBUISSON, EDMONDS, EDMONSTON, EMERSON, FARNUM, FIRMENT, FONTENOT, GADBERRY, HARRIS, HODGES, HORTON, MIKE JOHNSON, MACK, MCFARLAND, NELSON, CHARLES OWEN, PRESSLY, RISER, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, SEABAUGH, THOMAS, WHEAT, AND WRIGHT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the governor to ensure that the right to individual liberty, the right to freedom of religion, and the right of the citizens of Louisiana to peaceably assemble are protected at all times without restriction.

WHEREAS, the importance of protecting religious freedom is recognized in the Preamble to the Constitution of Louisiana by providing that "We, the people of Louisiana, grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political, economic, and religious liberties we enjoy, and desiring to protect individual rights to life, liberty, and property"; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of Louisiana further recognizes the importance of protecting religious freedom by providing that "No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof"; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 5(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana provides that the governor shall "faithfully support the constitution and laws of the state and of the United States and shall see that the laws are faithfully executed"; and

WHEREAS, during the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No. 793 was enacted into law providing for the Preservation of Religious Freedom Act, R.S. 13:5231 through 5242; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 13:5232(1) provides that the free exercise of religion is a fundamental right of the highest order in this state; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 13:5232(3) and (4) provide that it was the intent of the legislature and the people of Louisiana in 1974 to provide the same level of protection for an action of the government that explicitly burdened religious exercise as for an action that indirectly burdened religious exercise through its effect.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governor to ensure that the religious liberty and right to assemble without restriction of Louisiana citizens be protected at all times, including during states of emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governor not to authorize, restrict, or otherwise impose a penalty for individuals who wish to assemble for religious purposes, according to their constitutionally-bestowed rights and liberties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governor to give absolute assurance to the people of this state that their religious liberties will be protected at all times, including during states of emergencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES