HLS 22RS-698 ORIGINAL

2022 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES OWEN

CONGRESS: Requests that congress reduce or eliminate funding for the U.S Department of Homeland Security to protect the civil liberties of the citizens of Louisiana

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Congress of the United States of America to significantly reduce 3 funding of the Department of Homeland Security and any other department that is 4 undertaking efforts to identify and threaten or silence individuals or groups who 5 criticize the department or proffer theories not approved by the department. 6 WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution states that 7 "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free 8 exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the 9 people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances"; 10 and 11 WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 7 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana states 12 "No law shall curtail or restrain the freedom of speech or of the press. Every person may 13 speak, write, and publish his sentiments on any subject, but is responsible for abuse of that 14 freedom"; and 15 WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security, in its February 7, 2022, 16 statement entitled "Summary of Terrorism Threat to the U.S. Homeland," states the 17 following: "The United States remains in a heightened threat environment fueled by several 18 factors, including an online environment filled with false or misleading narratives and 19 conspiracy theories, and other forms of mis- dis- and mal-information (MDM) introduced 20 and/or amplified by foreign and domestic threat actors. These threat actors seek to

1	exacerbate societal friction to sow discord and undermine public trust in government
2	institutions to encourage unrest, which could potentially inspire acts of violence."; and
3	WHEREAS, it is not, nor has it ever been, the place of the United States government
4	to identify, excoriate, nor impugn narratives that are counter to the narrative of the current
5	administration from the White House, especially when those views or narratives are held by
6	United States citizens; and
7	WHEREAS, there have been times in the history of the United States when
8	tyrannical presidential administrations, notably the ones of Woodrow Wilson and Franklin
9	Delano Roosevelt, rounded up groups and individuals in an unlawful manner simply because
10	those groups or individuals disagreed with or offered ideas dissimilar to the then current
11	occupant of the White House; and
12	WHEREAS, the Sedition Act, enacted at the behest of Woodrow Wilson, was used
13	to arrest those who opposed United States' involvement in World War I, including pastors
14	in churches, people holding rallies, and even individuals who fled to Canada to simply
15	exercise the rights to speak and assemble; and
16	WHEREAS, The Palmer Raids of 1919 saw the arrest of many individuals who were
17	exercising their rights of association and speech and are a stain on the history of the United
18	States and its guaranteed civil liberties; and
19	WHEREAS, the administration of Franklin Roosevelt went so far as to have citizens
20	of Japanese ancestry kidnaped in Peru and brought to the United States to be held with
21	Japanese-Americans in barbaric internment camps in the United States, one of which was
22	in the state of Louisiana; and
23	WHEREAS, there are examples in the history of the United States when the
24	government overstepped its bounds and exerted totalitarian-like dominance over Americans
25	for exercising their God-given and constitutional rights of speech, assembly, and association
26	and many other rights; and
27	WHEREAS, we in the twenty-first century must be better than some of our
28	forefathers who trampled on the people's precious liberties, and we must stand for the rights
29	of citizens to speak, assemble, and associate; and

1	WHEREAS, American citizens and organizations are and must remain free to
2	analyze, in public and private, the actions of the federal and state governments and to
3	vigorously question, scrutinize, and even identify misdeeds and malintentions of these
4	governments; and
5	WHEREAS, it is a citizen's unequivocal right, and some may say his duty, to
6	question actions of governments and to identify activities of any local, state, or federal
7	government whose actual and or threatened deeds deteriorate the confidence in said
8	governments; and
9	WHEREAS, it is undoubtedly unconscionable for the Department of Homeland
10	Security to turn its effort and endless level of resources on Americans who question and
11	analyze the actions of the government and to label those citizens conspiracy theorists for
12	simply scrutinizing the government; and
13	WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security should be focused on the
14	invasion of the United States that is taking place via the illegal entry of untold millions of
15	trespassers from foreign lands; the department's proliferation of pejorative labels, including
16	conspiracy theory, misinformation, and disinformation, to denigrate legitimate views of
17	American citizens who are questioning governmental actions is an unmitigated disaster; and
18	WHEREAS, the duty of congressional appropriations is inviolate, and no
19	governmental spending may originate outside these parameters.
20	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the Great State of
21	Louisiana urges and requests the 118th Congress, at the earliest possible moment, to
22	significantly reduce funding of the Department of Homeland Security and any other
23	department that is undertaking efforts to identify and threaten or silence individuals or
24	groups who criticize the department or proffer theories not approved by the department.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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