

2022 Regular Session

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

1 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

30 WHEREAS, American citizens and organizations are and must remain free to
31 analyze, in public and private, the actions of the federal and state governments and to

1 vigorously question, scrutinize, and even identify misdeeds and malintentions of these
2 governments; and

3 WHEREAS, it is a citizen's unequivocal right, and some may say his duty, to
4 question actions of governments and to identify activities of any local, state, or federal
5 government whose actual and or threatened deeds deteriorate the confidence in said
6 governments; and

7 WHEREAS, it is undoubtedly unconscionable for the Department of Homeland
8 Security to turn its effort and endless level of resources on Americans who question and
9 analyze the actions of the government and to label those citizens conspiracy theorists for
10 simply scrutinizing the government; and

11 WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security should be focused on the
12 invasion of the United States that is taking place via the illegal entry of untold millions of
13 trespassers from foreign lands ; the department's proliferation of pejorative labels, including
14 conspiracy theory, misinformation, and disinformation, to denigrate legitimate views of
15 American citizens who are questioning governmental actions is an unmitigated disaster; and

16 WHEREAS, the duty of congressional appropriations is inviolate, and no
17 governmental spending may originate outside these parameters.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the Great State of
19 Louisiana urges and requests the 118th Congress, at the earliest possible moment, to
20 significantly reduce funding of the Department of Homeland Security and any other
21 department that is undertaking efforts to identify and threaten or silence individuals or
22 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)]

HCR 12 Engrossed

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