

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 903

Protecting 1st Amendment Rights of Free Speech and Free Exercise while
condemning any form of criminal behavior, threats or violence.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2018

Mr. BRAT submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Protecting 1st Amendment Rights of Free Speech and Free
Exercise while condemning any form of criminal behavior,
threats or violence.

Whereas in the past several years, violent crimes, threats of
violence, and other incidents of targeting on the basis of
religious beliefs or political opinions have occurred within
the United States;

Whereas, politically motivated organizations have fueled this
hate by labeling persons and groups advocating policies
based upon Judeo-Christian principles as “hate groups”
and “extremists”;

Whereas, the labeling of certain religious and political viewpoints
as hate groups or extremists has served to further
fuel hatred and violence, rather than curb it;

Whereas, this type of labeling has further validated the violent and aggressive attacks by those holding alternative views, and such attacks have occasioned the forced silencing of free speech on college campuses and at public events and rallies; and

Whereas, the rights of free exercise of religion and freedom of speech are two of the greatest rights possessed by American citizens, and they are to be vigilantly preserved: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) affirms that the United States stands
3 united in protecting the First Amendment rights of
4 Free Exercise and Free Speech of all Americans;

5 (2) affirms that the United States stands
6 united in condemning violence and intimidation
7 through threat in all forms;

8 (3) rejects irresponsible labeling of individuals
9 and groups on the basis of their religious and/or po-
10 litical views as extremists or hate groups, as such la-
11 beling itself fuels acts of violence and crime;

12 (4) rejects narrow-minded labeling as an attack
13 on the fabric of the society of the United States and
14 the ideals of pluralism and respect;

15 (5) condemns any form of religious or viewpoint
16 discrimination, incitement to violence, or ideological
17 targeting based solely upon beliefs;

1 (6) calls on Federal law enforcement officials,
2 working with State and local officials in an effort to
3 prevent further acts of domestic terrorism occa-
4 sioned by such labeling, to investigate all credible re-
5 ports of any persons or organizations labeling hate
6 groups and extremists solely on the basis of religious
7 beliefs or political affiliation;

8 (7) encourages the development of an inter-
9 agency task force led by the Attorney General and
10 bringing together the Department of Justice, the
11 Department of Homeland Security, the Department
12 of Education, the Department of State, the Federal
13 Bureau of Investigation, and the Office of the Direc-
14 tor of National Intelligence to collaborate on the de-
15 velopment of effective strategies and efforts to deter
16 labeling of hate groups on the sole basis of religious
17 views or political affiliation; and

18 (8) calls on the executive branch to enhance se-
19 curity measures and improve preparedness for reli-
20 gious institutions, places of worship, other institu-
21 tions, elected officials and persons that have been
22 targeted because they have been labeled as a hate
23 group or extremist on the sole basis of their religious
24 views or political affiliation.

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