



HR0505

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinoisans view the rights to free speech, free
3 expression, free assembly, and a free and independent press as
4 building blocks of a healthy democracy and are committed to
5 preserving these rights against unwarranted encroachment; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite claiming to be a champion for the First
7 Amendment, President Donald Trump has shown complete and
8 constant disregard for these rights in favor of prioritizing
9 political expediency, power grabs, preservation of his fragile
10 ego, and revenge for even the smallest imagined slight; and

11 WHEREAS, The Trump Administration appointee and Federal
12 Communications Commission Chair Brendan Carr has already
13 publicly expressed a willingness to "do this the hard way" if
14 late-night comedian Jimmy Kimmel was not immediately silenced,
15 per Donald Trump's wishes; and

16 WHEREAS, Late-night comedian Stephen Colbert, a critic of
17 Donald Trump, had his long-running satirical program cancelled
18 following pressure from Donald Trump and the FCC on the parent
19 company of CBS, Paramount; and

20 WHEREAS, President Trump has also encouraged unwarranted
21 crackdowns on peaceful protests when those protests express

1 views contrary to his own or the special interests from whom he
2 hopes to win favor; and

3 WHEREAS, During all three of his presidential campaigns,
4 President Trump has publicly and repeatedly goaded his
5 supporters to threaten, intimidate, and attack
6 counter-protesters at his rallies and to use violence as a
7 response to criticism; and

8 WHEREAS, During the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests in
9 Portland, Oregon, at President Trump's urging, federal agents
10 targeted non-violent protestors and specifically journalists
11 with rubber bullets, pepper spray, flash-bang grenades, and
12 mass arrests; and

13 WHEREAS, Donald Trump has similarly decried peaceful
14 protests against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
15 actions as chaotic, violent, and unlawful without any basis in
16 reality; and

17 WHEREAS, Donald Trump has repeatedly revoked credentials
18 from members of the White House Press Corps who voice
19 viewpoints contrary to those of his administration, ask
20 questions he does not want to answer, or act beyond the remit
21 of his personal propaganda arm; and

1 WHEREAS, Affected outlets include the Associated Press,
2 Bloomberg News, Reuters, Huffington Post, New York Times,
3 Politico, and NPR, all of which were pushed aside in favor of
4 near-hagiographic coverage from conservative outlets, such as
5 Breitbart and One America News Network; and

6 WHEREAS, Freedom of the press has been further curtailed
7 following extensive restrictions on membership of the Pentagon
8 Press Association as well as a memo circulated to journalists
9 requiring the Department of Defense approval on reporting
10 prior to public release even in cases that do not involve
11 classified materials; and

12 WHEREAS, Reporters attempting to cover important stories
13 have faced much greater pushback from law enforcement coming
14 on the heels of violent anti-journalism rhetoric from Donald
15 Trump; and

16 WHEREAS, As recently as October 10, 2025, WGN Producer
17 Debbie Brockman was forced to the ground and handcuffed to
18 prevent her from covering protests against ICE enforcement
19 operations; and

20 WHEREAS, These examples represent only a fragment of
21 Donald Trump's pattern of corrupting the First Amendment, his
22 attempts to manipulate and control all information Americans

1 receive, and his disregard for the American people's ability
2 to express themselves without fear of retribution; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States House of Representatives
4 approved a Trump Administration plan to rescind \$1.1 billion,
5 for the first time in 60 years, to the Corporation for Public
6 Broadcasting, which consists of organizations such as National
7 Public Radio and Public Broadcasting Service, causing CPB to
8 begin closing their operations; and

9 WHEREAS, In smaller communities in particular, the
10 Associated Press or a local NPR affiliate is one of the primary
11 resources for national news, state news, and emergency
12 notifications; and

13 WHEREAS, Undermining free speech and the free press
14 undermines democracy; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we affirm our support for the freedom of the press and the
18 freedom of speech as outlined in the First Amendment to the
19 United States Constitution; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we recognize the Trump Administration's
21 efforts to exert editorial control over media companies by

1 using the official powers of the government to punish dissent
2 and reward acquiescence as textbook corruption; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That we condemn President Trump's efforts to
5 restrict the right to free speech as attacks on democracy
6 itself.