



HR0050

LRB101 07303 MST 52343 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The primary function of institutions of higher  
3 education is the discovery, transmission, and dissemination of  
4 knowledge by engaging in teaching, research, open discussions,  
5 and free debate; and

6           WHEREAS, This tradition of openness and freedom is the  
7 foundation of knowledge creation and has produced many of the  
8 greatest universities and colleges in the world; and

9           WHEREAS, Rene Descartes stated that "if you would be a real  
10 seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your  
11 life you doubt, as far as possible, all things"; and

12           WHEREAS, Colleges and universities are increasingly  
13 stifling viewpoints which may be considered controversial by  
14 some, unilaterally cancelling scheduled speeches by certain  
15 commentators, and limiting the right to assemble or protest to  
16 so-called "free speech zones"; and

17           WHEREAS, According to the American Civil Liberties Union  
18 (ACLU), "Speech codes adopted by government-financed state  
19 colleges and universities amount to government censorship, in  
20 violation of the Constitution; the ACLU believes that all  
21 campuses should adhere to First Amendment principles because

1 academic freedom is a bedrock of education in a free society";  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, These policies are inherently at odds with the  
4 freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment of the  
5 Constitution, and they inhibit the free exchange of ideas at  
6 campuses across the country; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
8 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
9 we condemn restrictive speech policies at institutions of  
10 higher education, and we urge those institutions with such  
11 policies in place to reverse their decisions; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That it is in the interest of our State and our  
13 nation to have a well-informed population that has been exposed  
14 to all sides of an argument, as this can only lead to better  
15 perspective, better decision-making, and mutual respect on  
16 controversial issues; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
18 delivered to the Chairperson of the Illinois Board of Higher  
19 Education, the Executive Director of the Illinois Community  
20 College Board, and the Presidents of Chicago State University,  
21 Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University,  
22 Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University,

1 Northern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University,  
2 the University of Illinois system, and Western Illinois  
3 University.