

As Introduced

**128th General Assembly
Regular Session
2009-2010**

H. C. R. No. 14

Representative Martin

**Cosponsors: Representatives Adams, J., Bulp, Combs, Huffman, Jordan,
Mecklenborg, Stautberg, Wagner**

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To request that the members of the United States 1
Congress refrain from enacting the Fairness 2
Doctrine into law. 3

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE
OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, Prior to 1987, the United States Federal 4
Communications Commission had a policy known as the "Fairness 5
Doctrine" that required all coverage of controversial issues by a 6
broadcast station be balanced and fair; and 7

WHEREAS, Currently, the public relies on the judgment of 8
broadcast journalists and its own ability to sort out any 9
one-sided or distorted coverage of an issue rather than any United 10
States Federal Communications Commission requirement for balanced 11
presentation of controversial issues for broadcasting; and 12

WHEREAS, Broadcasters can and do provide substantial coverage 13
of controversial issues of public importance in their communities, 14
including contrasting viewpoints, through news, public affairs, 15
public service, interactive, and special programming; and 16

WHEREAS, The Fairness Doctrine has the effect of forcing 17
journalists to avoid coverage of controversial issues rather than 18

attempt to find contrasting viewpoints for every issue; and 19

WHEREAS, The Fairness Doctrine violates the First Amendment 20
rights of free speech and free press by prohibiting reporters from 21
making their own decisions about balancing stories; and 22

WHEREAS, Previous attempts by the United States Congress to 23
enact the Fairness Doctrine into law were vetoed by both President 24
Reagan and President Bush; now therefore be it 25

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 128th General Assembly 26
of the State of Ohio, hereby request that the United States 27
Congress refrain from enacting the Fairness Doctrine into law; and 28
be it further 29

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 30
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 31
President of the United States, to the Speaker and the Clerk of 32
the United States House of Representatives, to the President Pro 33
Tempore and the Secretary of the United States Senate, to the 34
members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and to the news 35
media of Ohio. 36