

As Introduced

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

S. C. R. No. 4

Senators Grendell, Coughlin

**Cosponsors: Senators Schuring, Faber, Seitz, Gibbs, Cates, Wagoner,
Hughes**

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 SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES 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 Senate transmit duly 30
authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the 31
United States, to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States 32
House of Representatives, to the President Pro Tempore and the 33
Secretary of the United States Senate, to the members of the Ohio 34
Congressional delegation, and to the news media of Ohio. 35