

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7
BY MURPHY, HANNON, and RIORDAN

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution to request that the Congress of the United
2 States amend the Constitution of the United States to provide
3 for the prohibition of federal and state action which
4 desecrates or dilutes rights guaranteed under the Bill of
5 Rights.
6 WHEREAS, the year 1991 marks the two hundredth anniversary of
7 the ratification of the first ten amendments, commonly known as
8 the Bill of Rights, to the Constitution of the United States and
9 the integration of those amendments into the organic laws of this
10 country; and
11 WHEREAS, the rights and privileges guaranteed in those
12 amendments form the foundations upon which the freedoms enjoyed
13 and taken for granted by each American citizen are based; and
14 WHEREAS, diversity, the tolerance and protection of which is
15 the hallmark of the Bill of Rights, has served as a source of
16 strength and elasticity in the American culture; and
17 WHEREAS, the erosion of tolerance and protection of diversity
18 by the chipping away at or the dilution of those assurances
19 contained in the Bill of Rights will serve to degrade the moral
20 and cultural fabric of our nation, as well as destroy all
21 semblance of political and civil order; and
22 WHEREAS, there are many examples today of the chaos and
23 bloodshed which is caused when the freedoms, such as those
24 contained in the Bill of Rights are abridged, diluted, or are not
25 in force; NOW THEREFORE,

1 That the Congress of the United States is requested to enact
2 an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which
3 guarantees the sanctity and forbids the desecration or diluting
4 of the freedoms contained in or intrinsic to the Bill of Rights
5 by requiring that neither the states nor the federal government
6 enact legislation which impinges upon or restricts individual
7 exercise of those freedoms, which include the following: the
8 freedoms of speech, assembly, religion, and press; the right to
9 petition the government for redress; the right to bear arms;
10 the freedom from military conscription of one's property for
11 military quarters; the right to be secure in one's person,
12 house, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and
13 seizures made without probable cause; right to receive notice
14 and be informed of the contents of any criminal charges and to
15 be free from being tried twice for the same offense; the right
16 to have, in criminal cases, a speedy and public trial by an
17 impartial jury of citizens of the state and district in which
18 the event took place, to confront one's accusers, to be free
19 from the compulsion of testifying against oneself, and to have
20 legal representation; to be able to possess property that
21 cannot be taken away for public use without just compensation;
22 the right to have a jury hear a civil matter where the amount
23 in controversy exceeds twenty dollars; the right to be free
24 from the imposition of excessive bail, fines, or cruel and
25 unusual punishment; the right for the people and the states to
26 retain and possess those rights not specifically delegated or
27 protected; and those rights and privileges found to be
28 intrinsic to the rights enumerated in those ten amendments.

29
EXPLANATION

30 This joint resolution requests that the United States
31 Congress enact an amendment to the United States Constitution
32 which guarantees the sanctity and forbids the desecration or
33 diluting of the Bill of Rights and those rights which are
34 intrinsic to the rights enumerated in the ten amendments.

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SJR 7

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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