
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 446 Session of 2003

INTRODUCED BY LEDERER, HARHAI, KENNEY, SOLOBAY, MAITLAND, BAKER, ARMSTRONG, BALDWIN, BENNINGHOFF, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CORRIGAN, COSTA, CRAHALLA, DALEY, FAIRCHILD, FICHTER, FLEAGLE, GABIG, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GORDNER, GRUCELA, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HESS, JAMES, KELLER, LAUGHLIN, LEH, McILHATTAN, PALLONE, PETRARCA, PISTELLA, READSHAW, REICHLEY, SAMUELSON, SATHER, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SHANER, STERN, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, TIGUE, TRUE, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WATSON, WILT, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, HORSEY, GEIST, BROWNE AND DeLUCA,
OCTOBER 14, 2003

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 14, 2003

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Federal Communications Commission and major
2 television networks to curb or eliminate the growing amount
3 of profanity on television, especially during the "family
4 hour."

5 WHEREAS, A recent study by the Parents Television Council
6 indicated a jump in profanity in virtually every network and
7 every time slot, finding that foul language increased during the
8 8 to 9 p.m. "family hour," by 94.8% between 1998 and 2002 and
9 during the 9 to 10 p.m. hour by 109% in the same period; and
10 WHEREAS, The Parents Television Council said the television
11 industry needs to get serious about reducing the flood of
12 vulgarity coming into homes via television; and
13 WHEREAS, According to Syracuse University Professor Robert
14 Thompson:

1 Once prime-time television decides to absorb something,
2 it becomes a stamp of normalcy. It's no longer
3 controversial. It's no longer a big deal. It makes it a
4 casual, accepted sort of thing;

5 and
6 WHEREAS, According to P.M. Forni, cofounder of the Civility
7 Project at Johns Hopkins University:
8 Very often, rudeness and cursing are the beginning of an
9 escalation toward violence. Words, our words, are like
10 our hands. They can soothe and heal, but they can also
11 strike, which means they can hurt;

12 therefore be it
13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
14 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Federal Communications
15 Commission and major television networks to curb or eliminate

16 the growing amount of profanity on television, especially during
17 the "family hour"; and be it further
18 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
19 the Federal Communications Commission and to the major
20 television networks.

I30L82MRD/20030H0446R2757

- 2 -

Serial No. 446 By Representatives LEDERER, HARHAI, KENNEY, SOLOBAY, MAITLAND, BAKER, ARMSTRONG, BALDWIN, BENNINGHOFF, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CORRIGAN, COSTA, CRAHALLA, DALEY, FAIRCHILD, FICHTER, FLEAGLE, GABIG, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GORDNER, GRUCELA, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HESS, JAMES, KELLER, LAUGHLIN, LEH, McILHATTAN, PALLONE, PETRARCA, PISTELLA, READSHAW, REICHLEY, SAMUELSON, SATHER, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SHANER, STERN, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, TIGUE, TRUE, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WATSON, WILT, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, HORSEY, GEIST, BROWNE, DeLUCA, EGOLF and TURZAI.

Printer's No. 2757.

A Resolution urging the Federal Communications Commission and major television networks to curb or eliminate the growing amount of profanity on television, especially during the "family hour."

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Adopted, Oct. 15, 2003 (199-0)

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