

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1623

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

2-21

10 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION concerning funeral picketing.

11

12 WHEREAS, Funerals are private, solemn events which should pro-
13 voke expressions of respect;

14 WHEREAS, Military funerals should be events reflecting the dignity
15 and honor of the deceased;

16 WHEREAS, The First Amendment right of free speech is a hallowed
17 American right;

18 WHEREAS, Fred Phelps and his followers of Westboro Baptist
19 Church are entitled to their exercise of this right;

20 WHEREAS, The message of Mr. Phelps and his followers is held by
21 most to be extremely egregious and offensive and even more so when
22 presented at a military or other funeral; and

23 WHEREAS, The American Legion Riders and Patriot Guard of Kan-
24 sas are particularly helpful in protecting the mourners from the impact
25 of Mr. Phelps and his followers: Now, therefore,

26 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Rep-*
27 *resentatives concurring therein:* That the Kansas Legislature commends
28 the Patriot Guard and the American Legion Riders for their positive in-
29 tervention at funerals where Mr. Phelps and his followers are picketing;
30 and

31 *Be it further resolved:* That the Kansas Legislature condemns in the
32 strongest manner possible the hateful activities of Mr. Phelps and his
33 followers; and

34 *Be it further resolved:* That the Kansas Legislature wishes it to be
35 known throughout the nation that the people of Kansas largely embrace
36 a true ~~Christian~~ **religious** message of love for one's neighbors, rejoicing
37 with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep and that Mr.
38 Phelps and his followers do not reflect the true spirit of the people of
39 Kansas.