

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 474

Expressing the Boy Scouts of America freedom of association.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 1998

Mr. RIGGS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the Boy Scouts of America freedom of  
association.

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America is a private organization whose purpose is “to provide an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness”;

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America has had this policy since being incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by the 64th Congress of the United States in 1916;

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America has a membership of more than 5,600,000 boys and young men and is staffed by volunteer adult leaders who serve at all levels of Scouting in approximately 380 local councils, 32 areas, and 4 regions, and nationally with volunteer executive

boards and committees providing guidance to each local council;

Whereas these volunteer adult leaders are routinely in close contact with individual Scouts to whom they provide training and instruction in the personal and moral values of Scouting;

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America has long taught morality, traditional family values along the guidelines established by the national executive board and the national charter from Congress;

Whereas Councils of the Boy Scouts of America have been subjected to a series of local lawsuits by militant advocacy organizations that seeks to force the Boy Scouts of America to accept certain persons as Scouts and Scout Leaders who they feel do not represent the personal and moral values that the Boy Scouts of America seek to imbue in its membership;

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America's National Council has established a prohibition on openly homosexual members and leaders;

Whereas this prohibition is justified by the Scout Oath, including a commitment to stay "physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight";

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America, as a private, voluntary, nonbusiness organization, has the right to set this standard and maintain traditional values and freedom of association; and

Whereas a recent survey showed Americans, by a 2 to 1 margin, believe the Boy Scouts of America should be allowed to prohibit homosexuals joining their organization or becoming Scout Leaders: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2   representatives of the United States that the Boy Scouts of  
3   America has the right, as a voluntary association, to set  
4   standards for members and leaders and should not be re-  
5   quired against its will to accept as Scouts or Scout Lead-  
6   ers individuals who do not reflect the traditional and moral  
7   values of the Boy Scouts of America.

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