

1 HJR78  
2 181658-2  
3 By Representatives Butler, Mooney, Farley, Standridge, Moore  
4 (B), Rich, Ledbetter, Brown, Wingo, Drake, Clouse, Greer,  
5 Gaston, Faust, Ainsworth, Whorton (I), Wood, Wilcox,  
6 Patterson, Pettus, Ball, Williams (P), Fridy, South,  
7 Treadaway, Sessions, Weaver, Blackshear and Shedd  
8 RFD: Rules  
9 First Read: 23-FEB-17

1  
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,  
3 URGING TEACHER ACADEMIC FREEDOM REGARDING SCIENTIFIC  
4 EVIDENCE SUBJECTS.  
5

6 WHEREAS, an important purpose of science education  
7 is to inform students about scientific evidence and to help  
8 students develop critical thinking skills necessary to become  
9 intelligent, productive, and scientifically informed citizens;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the teaching of some scientific subjects  
12 required to be taught under the curriculum framework developed  
13 by the State Board of Education may cause controversy  
14 including, but not limited to, biological evolution, the  
15 chemical origins of life, global warming, and human cloning;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, some teachers may be unsure of the  
18 expectation concerning how they should present information  
19 when controversy occurs on such subjects; now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
21 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we strongly urge:

22 (a) The State Board of Education, public elementary  
23 and secondary school governing authorities, directors of  
24 schools, school system administrators, and public elementary  
25 and secondary school principals and administrators and

1 teachers should endeavor to create an environment within  
2 public elementary and secondary schools that encourages  
3 students to explore scientific questions, develop critical  
4 thinking skills, analyze the scientific strengths and  
5 weaknesses of scientific explanations, and respond  
6 appropriately and respectfully to differences of opinion about  
7 scientific subjects required to be taught under the curriculum  
8 framework developed by the State Board of Education.

9 (b) The State Board of Education, public elementary  
10 or secondary school governing authorities, directors of  
11 schools, school system administrators, and public elementary  
12 or secondary school principals and administrators should  
13 refrain from prohibiting any teacher in a public school system  
14 of this state from helping students understand, analyze,  
15 critique, and review in an objective manner the scientific  
16 strengths and scientific weaknesses of existing scientific  
17 theories covered in the course being taught within the  
18 curriculum framework developed by the State Board of  
19 Education.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution is  
21 intended to support the teaching of scientific information and  
22 shall not be construed to promote any religious or  
23 nonreligious doctrine, promote discrimination for or against a  
24 particular set of religious beliefs or non-beliefs, or promote  
25 discrimination for or against religion or non-religion.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17

---

Speaker of the House of Representatives

---

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was adopted by the House 06-APR-17.

Jeff Woodard  
Clerk

---

Senate 02-MAY-17 Adopted