



# Resolution

## Petition The Congress To Exclude Reenactment Of The "Fairness Doctrine" In Its Party Platform

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- WHEREAS** The "Fairness Doctrine" of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) formerly required all television and radio broadcasting licensees to present opposing views on controversial issues of public importance, and
- WHEREAS** The FCC repealed the "Fairness Doctrine" in 1987 based on its conclusion that the doctrine "on its face, violates the First Amendment and contravenes the public interest", and
- WHEREAS** The dramatic growth among communications media has rendered the doctrine unnecessary, and
- WHEREAS** Reinstitution of the "Fairness Doctrine" would reduce, rather than enhance, coverage of controversial issues by causing licensees to lessen their coverage of controversial issues, and repeal of the doctrine has promoted a healthy expansion of controversial issues programming, and
- WHEREAS** Reinstitution of the "Fairness Doctrine" would create the potential for politically motivated government intimidation of the broadcast media, and
- WHEREAS** Reinstitution of the "Fairness Doctrine" would present a grave danger to the free exercise of religion, and
- WHEREAS** The Democratic Party has made the codification of the "Fairness Doctrine" an objective of its Party Platform since 1984. Therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** That the National Religious Broadcasters calls upon Congress to repudiate the codification of the "Fairness Doctrine" in its 2004 Party Platform.