

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **First Extraordinary Session, 1992**
4 **By: Representative Hutchinson**

H.R.

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO AMEND FEDERAL
9 LAW TO REMOVE THE CONGRESSIONAL EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES
10 PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND THE OTHER
11 LAWS FROM WHICH THEY EXEMPT THEMSELVES.

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13 WHEREAS, the painful and unsettling discussion of sexual harassment
14 stemming from the confirmation hearings of Judge Clarence Thomas before the
15 Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate has made the entire country
16 more aware of the widespread nature of the problem of sexual harassment; and

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18 WHEREAS, while millions of Americans are afforded some measure of legal
19 protection by federal law, employees of the Congress are not afforded this
20 protection because of congressional exemptions from federal law dealing with
21 sexual harassment and other types of discrimination; and

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23 WHEREAS, for more than two hundred years, the Congress has been a source
24 of leadership for the people of this country, our elected voices representing
25 the trust of the people of this country. As a result, the Congress, in
26 addition to its direct influence in making laws, provides the source of
27 inspiration as a symbol of self-government. Symbolic actions like the
28 exemption that members of Congress have from sexual harassment laws, other
29 types of discrimination, and all other laws from which they exempt themselves,
30 strike a serious blow to the integrity of our government; and

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32 WHEREAS, while no sexual harassment or other violation of the law can be
33 tolerated, it is especially important for our lawmakers and their staffs to
34 operate in an atmosphere of equality, mutual respect, and dignity. Our system
35 is still served by special considerations that are not only inconsistent, but

1 an affront to the sense of justice of the American people.

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3 NOW THEREFORE,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY
5 SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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7 THAT the Congress of the United States is hereby urged to amend federal
8 law to remove the congressional exemption from sexual harassment statutes and
9 all other laws from which they exempt themselves; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be transmitted to
12 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of the
13 United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Arkansas
14 congressional delegation.

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