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2 83rd General Assembly
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HCR 1011

4
5 By: Representative Hendren
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8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REVIEW THE LEVEL
10 OF EXPENDITURES MADE ON BEHALF OF FORMER PRESIDENTS
11 IN ORDER TO FULFILL ITS ROLE AS STEWARD OF THE PUBLIC
12 TREASURY.
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14 **Subtitle**

15 URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
16 REVIEW THE EXPENDITURES MADE ON BEHALF
17 OF FORMER PRESIDENTS TO FULFILL ITS ROLE
18 AS STEWARD OF THE PUBLIC TREASURY.
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21 WHEREAS, in 1958, the United States Congress first enacted the Former
22 Presidents' Act (3 U.S.C. 102 note) to provide all former Presidents with an
23 annual pension and office staff, and since then related legislation also
24 provides the former Presidents with travel expenses, mailing privileges, and
25 Secret Service protection for life; and
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27 WHEREAS, for Fiscal Year 2001, the General Services Administration
28 (GSA) has requested \$2,517,000 for presidential allowances and office staff
29 for the four living former Presidents and now *a fifth former president* has
30 indicated that he plans to ask the GSA to pay office rent of *\$811,000* per
31 year for just his office in New York City; and
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33 WHEREAS, just as it is unwise for the Defense Department to pay \$10,000
34 for toilet seats or \$700 for hammers, it is also unwise for the GSA to pay
35 extremely high rental rates for office space in one of the most expensive
36 real estate markets of the world just for one former President's personal

1 office; and

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3 WHEREAS, the United States Congress is the governmental body
4 responsible for controlling the expenditures of U.S. taxpayers' money and for
5 ensuring that the tax money is wisely spent, and it now appears to be time
6 for them to review the amount of funding that is authorized for former
7 Presidents, when the amount of money requested for annual office rent for one
8 person exceeds the amount many American citizens will earn in a lifetime,

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10 NOW THEREFORE,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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14 That the United States Congress is urged to exercise its authority as
15 steward of the Treasury of the United States and to review the amount of
16 expenditures which are authorized for former Presidents with the idea that
17 each former President should be given a reasonable amount of funding for his
18 activities, but that no person should be given unbridled access to the public
19 pocketbook regardless of his former position or personal popularity; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, with the Senate
22 concurring therein, the Chief Clerk of the Arkansas House of Representatives
23 shall transmit copies to the presiding officer of the United States Senate
24 and the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the
25 Arkansas congressional delegation.

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/s/ Hendren

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