

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 405 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY CLYMER, BAKER, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, BOBACK, BOYD, BROOKS, CAUSER, CREIGHTON, DALLY, DELOZIER, DENLINGER, DIGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FAIRCHILD, FARRY, FLECK, GABIG, GABLER, GEIST, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GROVE, HARHART, HARPER, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN, KNOWLES, KRIEGER, MAHER, MAJOR, MARSHALL, MARSICO, MENSCH, METCALFE, MILLARD, MILNE, MOUL, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PEIFER, PETRI, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PYLE, QUINN, RAPP, READSHAW, REESE, REICHLEY, ROAE, ROCK, ROHRER, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SONNEY, STERN, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, J. TAYLOR, TRUE, TURZAI, VEREB, VULAKOVICH AND WATSON, JULY 10, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, JULY 10, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President of the United States to classify the
2 terrorism suspect prison photos.

3 WHEREAS, On September 11, 2001, more than 3,000 United States
4 citizens lost their lives in an unprovoked attack on the United
5 States; and

6 WHEREAS, The attack on United States soil was carried out by
7 Al Qaeda terrorists who hate the United States and the freedoms
8 that she stands for; and

9 WHEREAS, Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups continue to plan
10 and plot to attack our homeland and to kill United States
11 citizens, as well as our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

12 WHEREAS, There exists a belief among some Americans that the

1 War on Terror is breeding more terrorists and that America's
2 image abroad has suffered negatively, and yet there are those
3 who believe that the 44 photographs allegedly depicting abuse of
4 detainees in United States custody in Iraq and Afghanistan
5 should be released; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States military has had more than 450,000
7 soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the release of
8 the detainee photos showing the bad behavior of a few would be a
9 disservice to the entire United States military and will incite
10 violence against our servicemen and servicewomen; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator John McCain, a prisoner of war hero who
12 suffered at the hands of torturers himself, has called on the
13 President of the United States to classify the photographs to
14 protect our servicemen and servicewomen; and

15 WHEREAS, On May 12, 2009, the President of the United States
16 made the decision not to release to the public the prisoner
17 photos of terrorism suspects; and

18 WHEREAS, The President of the United States stated at the
19 time that, "The publication of these photos would not add any
20 additional benefit to our understanding of what was carried out
21 in the past by a small number of individuals"; and

22 WHEREAS, The President also stated that, "The most direct
23 consequence of releasing them, I believe, would be to further
24 inflame anti-American opinion and to put our troops in greater
25 danger"; and

26 WHEREAS, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has stated that,
27 "The pictures are not going to be released," in response to the
28 United States House of Representatives seeking to remove an
29 amendment in the war funding bill under consideration that would
30 prohibit the release of the alleged torture photos; and

1 WHEREAS, Many United States citizens believe that the release
2 of these photos will make the United States less safe and put
3 our soldiers at greater risk; and

4 WHEREAS, The Honorable Scott Perry and the Honorable Nick
5 Miccarelli, members of the House of Representatives of the
6 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, have been called to active duty
7 with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and are currently
8 serving a tour of duty in Iraq; and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's own 56th Stryker Brigade consisting
10 of more than 4,000 soldiers has been recently deployed to Iraq,
11 and more than 2,000 airmen from the 28th Combat Aviation Brigade
12 are presently serving along with the Stryker Brigade in Iraq;
13 therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
15 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania take a stand to protect
16 Pennsylvania's finest soldiers, among whom are two members of
17 the House of Representatives; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
19 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President of the United
20 States to issue an executive order classifying the terrorism
21 suspect photos; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
23 the President of the United States and to each member of
24 Congress from Pennsylvania.