

By: Tinderholt

H.R. No. 16

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On September 16, 2023, the Texas Senate acquitted
2 Attorney General Ken Paxton on all 16 articles of impeachment
3 considered in a two-week trial; and

4 WHEREAS, The Senate also voted to dismiss four other articles
5 of impeachment that the chamber agreed to set aside prior to the
6 trial, which stemmed from secretive, rushed, and flawed proceedings
7 in the Texas House in May 2023; and

8 WHEREAS, Just two days after the House General Investigating
9 Committee revealed that it had spent months surreptitiously
10 scrutinizing the actions of Attorney General Paxton, it recommended
11 impeachment; it failed to put witnesses under oath during its
12 investigation and then failed to follow the rules of evidence in
13 alleging wrongdoing, basing its case on hearsay that would never be
14 admissible in a court of law; Attorney General Paxton was not given
15 the opportunity to defend himself to the Investigating Committee;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The House General Investigating Committee failed to
18 provide House members with adequate time or means to evaluate the
19 information it presented; the first impeachment of a statewide
20 official in over a century proceeded at warp speed, and despite a
21 complete lack of evidence, within two days, the House voted to
22 impeach, causing Attorney General Paxton's automatic suspension
23 from office pending a trial in the Senate; and

24 WHEREAS, In September, the fair and deliberative Senate trial

1 exposed the haste, flimsiness, and unfairness of the House
2 impeachment process, and Attorney General Paxton was duly
3 vindicated; the impeachment process in the House was a debacle that
4 undermined its legitimacy and integrity, and in order to restore
5 public faith, it must make amends for the grievous errors
6 committed; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
8 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby extend a formal apology to
9 Attorney General Ken Paxton; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for Attorney General Ken Paxton as an expression of
12 sincere contrition by the Texas House of Representatives.