

By: Reynolds

H.C.R. No. 66

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump has departed frequently
2 from the norms and ethical standards long established for his
3 office, but while the number of scandals clouding his
4 administration is unprecedented, their nature was anticipated by
5 the framers of the United States Constitution; and

6 WHEREAS, Newly liberated from the tyranny of King George III,
7 the founding fathers were determined to strengthen their new
8 republic against any chief executive who should prove unfit or
9 evince despotic tendencies; during the Constitutional Convention,
10 James Madison warned against "incapacity, negligence, or perfidy,"
11 and said that simply enduring a reprobate until the next election
12 would be unwise, for "He might pervert his administration into a
13 scheme of speculation"--the theft of public funds--"or oppression.
14 He might betray his trust to foreign powers"; his fellow Virginian,
15 George Mason, feared "attempts to subvert the Constitution" and
16 cautioned against a chief executive who "might engage in the
17 corrupting of electors" or use the power of the pardon "to stop
18 inquiry and prevent detection"; and

19 WHEREAS, Still another Virginian, Edmund Randolph,
20 championed a clause forbidding the president from "receiving
21 emoluments from foreign powers"; Abraham Baldwin of Georgia worried
22 that the head of the executive branch might fail in his
23 constitutional duty to properly staff that branch of government, or
24 that "in a fit of passion," he might discharge "all the good

1 officers of government"; and

2 WHEREAS, Resolved to discourage malfeasance or monarchical
3 behavior by the executive while maintaining a rigorous system of
4 checks and balances, after much discussion and parsing of language,
5 the framers established impeachment as a mechanism for Congress to
6 investigate "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and
7 Misdemeanors," the last echoing a similar phrase used in the
8 English Parliament since 1450 to describe both criminal and
9 noncriminal offenses against the state; and

10 WHEREAS, In the excesses of the Trump administration, the
11 framers would recognize grotesque illustrations of their greatest
12 fears; although our intelligence agencies have confirmed that
13 Russia interfered extensively in the 2016 election to support
14 President Trump, he has tried to deny the attack on our democracy
15 and failed to muster a credible response; he hid his efforts to
16 conduct business in Moscow during his campaign, and he has gone to
17 extraordinary lengths to conceal from even his closest advisors the
18 nature of his many private conversations with his Russian
19 counterpart, Vladimir Putin; moreover, he has taken actions and
20 adopted positions favorable to the Kremlin while undermining our
21 NATO allies and Western values; his efforts to stymie the
22 investigation into Russian intervention so alarmed the FBI that it
23 opened a counterintelligence investigation to determine whether he
24 was trying to assist our adversary, and the special counsel is
25 considering whether the president has obstructed justice; despite
26 warnings from his own lawyers, he has dangled a pardon for his
27 former campaign manager, although just such an offense set Richard

1 Nixon on the path to impeachment; and

2 WHEREAS, President Trump's personal lawyer has pleaded
3 guilty to the felonious violation of campaign finance laws on his
4 behalf and at his direction; the president's failure to divest his
5 business interests, including investments abroad, almost certainly
6 violates the Emoluments Clause, and as he has used his office to
7 publicize his properties, not only foreign nations, but also
8 domestic actors, have curried favor through lavish spending, a
9 matter now before the courts; while he refused to release his tax
10 returns, unlike all his predecessors in the modern era, exhaustive
11 reporting by the *New York Times* found an elaborate pattern of
12 deception over the course of decades and concluded that he had
13 evaded more than \$400 million in taxes and engaged in "instances of
14 outright fraud"; more troubling still, the president has ignored
15 his constitutional duty to appropriately staff the government with
16 "good officers," forcing out experienced professionals and leaving
17 a quarter of his cabinet posts to mere placeholders, including the
18 acting secretary of defense, who has little experience of either
19 diplomacy or military administration; and

20 WHEREAS, Other outrageous acts by this president constitute
21 attempts to erode the separation of powers, trample on civil
22 liberties, and ignore the rule of law, all while setting Americans
23 against each other with lies and ugly rhetoric; the dizzying number
24 of transgressions against his duty under the constitution has
25 tended to obscure the central fact that citizens cannot trust that
26 the president is acting in their interest, rather than his own; with
27 great moral clarity, however, the late John Dingell, our

1 longest-serving member of congress, in his final message to the
2 nation reminded us: "In democratic government, elected officials do
3 not have power. They hold power in trust for the people who elected
4 them. If they misuse or abuse that public trust, it is quite
5 properly revoked"; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
7 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to impeach
8 President Donald J. Trump; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
10 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
11 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
12 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
13 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
14 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
15 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.