THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 20 Session of 1979

INTRODUCED BY GOEBEL, LASHINGER AND POTT, MARCH 6, 1979

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MARCH 6, 1979

In the House of Representatives, March 6, 1979

- 1 WHEREAS, It is alleged that The Spirit Association for the
- 2 Unification of World Christianity, also known as the Unification
- Church, and the following religious societies; Scientology,
- 4 Children of God, International Society Krishna Consciousness,
- 5 Divine Light Mission, Church of Bible Understanding, Council for
- 6 Social Development, Neo-American Church and The Way
- 7 International, may utilize improper mind control techniques in
- 8 their recruitment and subsequent retention of members; and
- 9 WHEREAS, It is important to ascertain whether or not the
- 10 Unification Church or the other entities mentioned above recruit
- 11 and/or retain their membership by way of techniques which
- 12 undermine voluntary consent, involve the use of duress,
- 13 interfere with free will or otherwise involve improper mind
- 14 control practices; and
- 15 WHEREAS, It is necessary to determine whether the parents of
- 16 individuals who have become members of the Unification Church,
- 17 and who are commonly referred to as "Moonies", or the other
- 18 entities employ similar recruitment and/or membership retention
- 1 practices have adequate remedy under existing law to ascertain
- 2 whether or not such initial or continued membership is voluntary
- 3 and not the result of improper mind control techniques or other
- 4 forms of duress; and
- 5 WHEREAS, It is alleged that the Unification Church and the
- 6 other entities have engaged in improper and misleading fund-
- 7 raising practices and that such deceptive fund-raising is
- 8 facilitated by their alleged status as religious organizations;
- 9 and
- 10 WHEREAS, It is necessary to determine whether the fund-
- 11 raising practices of the Unification Church and the other
- 12 entities are improper and misleading and, if so, whether
- 13 existing law adequately regulates or prohibits such conduct;
- 14 therefore be it

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       RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives
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   appoint a select committee consisting of seven members, four
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   from the majority party and three from the minority party, to
   study, investigate and report to the House on the recruitment
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   and membership retention techniques and fund-raising practices
20 of the Unification Church and the other entities alluded to in
21 the foregoing and the possible need for remedial legislation;
22 and be it further
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       RESOLVED, That such select committee shall not conduct its
24 study or investigation so as to in any manner interfere with the
   free exercise of religion and religious beliefs by members of
26 the Unification Church (commonly referred to as "Moonies") or by
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   the other entities; and be it further
       RESOLVED, That the committee may hold hearings, take
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   testimony, and make its investigations at such places as it
30 deems necessary. It may issue subpoenas under the hand and seal
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1 of its chairman commanding any person to appear before it and to
   answer questions touching matters properly being inquired into
   by the committee and to produce such books, papers, records and
 4 documents as the committee deems necessary. Such subpoenas may
 5 be served upon any person and shall have the force and effect of
 6 subpoenas issued out of the courts of this Commonwealth. Any
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   person who willfully neglects or refuses to testify before the
   committee or to produce any books, papers, records or documents,
   shall be subject to the penalties provided by the laws of the
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   Commonwealth in such case. Each member of the committee shall
11 have power to administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses
12 appearing before the committee; and be it further
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      RESOLVED, That within thirty calendar days after the
14 committee has made its report, the chairman of the committee
15 shall cause a record of all expenses incurred by the committee,
   or the members thereof, which are payable at Commonwealth
   expense, to be filed with the Speaker of the House and the
18 Speaker shall cause the same to be entered into the journal
   thereof. No expenses incurred by the committee or any member
20 thereof shall be reimbursable by the Chief Clerk unless such
21 expense shall first have been included as an expense item in the
22 record heretofore required; and be it further
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      RESOLVED, That the committee shall report its findings,
24 together with its recommendations for appropriate legislation or
25 otherwise, to the General Assembly as soon as its study is
26 completed.
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