



State of Tennessee

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 340

By Representative Van Huss

A RESOLUTION to memorialize the mainstream media for sensationalism to advance their political agendas.

WHEREAS, the continued strength of our republic relies on an educated and informed citizenry freely exercising their rights; and

WHEREAS, our nation's founders established Constitutional protections for the press, as they understood the important role a free press would play in keeping citizens informed. They also understood that with freedom comes responsibility, and they established laws to set boundaries around those rights; and

WHEREAS, "fake news" is fabricated information made to appear as if it were factual information, but lacking any assurance of accuracy or credibility. Some news outlets are more interested in entertaining their viewers than informing them of facts. These same media outlets are also interested in representing opinions as facts and in promoting their own political agenda; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the media shamed and criticized those who wanted to reopen their businesses, gather at the beach, or attend church services; however, the mainstream media is now largely dismissing social distancing narratives when it comes to mass demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, the dropping of mask-shaming reveals a political agenda and double-standard on the part of some members of the mainstream media, who have been consumed by pandemic reporting almost exclusively for months; and

WHEREAS, reporting on protests and riots with the same vigor would require the media to directly criticize those same groups they have consistently sought to promote; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we congratulate the people of Tennessee for clearly seeing that the mainstream media has sensationalized the reporting on COVID-19 in the service of political agendas.

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ADOPTED: June 19, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Sexton', is written over a horizontal line.

CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES