



State of Wisconsin
2005 - 2006 LEGISLATURE

LRBs0029/1
PJD:pjd:pjd

**ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1,
TO 2005 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 8**

February 22, 2005 – Offered by Representative SCHNEIDER.

1 **Relating to:** the speech promoted by Professor Ward L. Churchill.

2 Whereas, Professor Ward Churchill, of the University of Colorado, is scheduled
3 to make a public address at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater about his paper
4 in which he compared the people who died in the September 11, 2001, attack on the
5 World Trade Center with bureaucrats of the Nazi regime of Germany; and

6 Whereas, the concept regarding freedom of speech is a bedrock of the
7 democratic form of governance of the United States of America; and

8 Whereas, the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States states
9 that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or
10 prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the
11 press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the
12 Government for a redress of grievances”; and

1 Whereas, the Declaration of Rights, article 1, section 3, of the Wisconsin
2 Constitution states that “Every person may freely speak, write and publish his
3 sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right, and no laws
4 shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press”; and

5 Whereas, in 1894, when Professor Richard T. Ely of the Department of
6 Economics, University of Wisconsin–Madison, was teaching about socialism and the
7 governmental regulation of business and in so doing brought the wrath of public
8 opinion upon himself and at his hearing before the Board of Regents of the University
9 of Wisconsin, he defended himself by stating that he believes that he “teaches all
10 sides of” an issue, even socialism and the regulation of business, and Professor Ely
11 challenged his students to “think, and to explore all sides of” an issue; the Board of
12 Regents of the University of Wisconsin System stood behind Professor Ely and
13 supported his right to “pursue the limitations of the truth”; and

14 Whereas, the tradition of free and open debate in Wisconsin is cherished by all
15 Wisconsinites in the declaration of academic freedom emblazoned on Bascom Hall
16 that “whatever may be the limitations which travel inquiry elsewhere, we believe
17 that the Great State University of Wisconsin should ever encourage that continual
18 and fearless sifting and winnowing by which alone the truth may be found”; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 ***Resolved by the assembly, That*** the Wisconsin assembly supports the right
21 of Professor Churchill to present his beliefs at a public presentation at the University
22 of Wisconsin–Whitewater, and, even though individually members may disagree
23 vehemently with the views and opinions of Professor Churchill, the members will
24 defend the rights of all citizens to speak freely in Wisconsin universities unless they

1 incite riot or engage in libel or slander, in the traditions established in 1894 by the
2 Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System; and, be it further

3 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly condemns all those who would refuse to allow
4 any citizen to speak freely and openly to express his or her views on science, religion,
5 politics, philosophy, religion, or any other subject without fear of reprisal or
6 intimidation by being denied access to public institutions or being shouted down or
7 harassed in the presentation of and pursuit of the truth.

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(END)