

State of Misconsin 1997 - 1998 LEGISLATURE

## ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 2, TO 1997 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 52

June 4, 1997 – Offered by Representative MUSSER.

1	Relating to: requesting appropriate action by the Congress to propose an
2	amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting the physical desecration of the
3	flag of the United States.
4	Whereas, although the right of free expression is part of the foundation of the
5	U.S. Constitution, very carefully drawn limits on expression in specific instances
6	have long been recognized as legitimate means of maintaining public safety and
7	decency, as well as orderliness and the productive value of public debate; and
8	Whereas, certain actions, although arguably related to one person's free
9	expression, nevertheless raise issues concerning public decency, public peace, and
10	the rights of expression and the sacred values of others; and
11	Whereas, there are symbols of our national soul; such as the Washington
12	monument, the United States capitol building, and memorials to our greatest
13	leaders; which are the property of every American and are therefore worthy of
14	protection from desecration and dishonor; and

1997 – 1998 Legislature

1	Whereas, the American flag to this day is a most honorable and worthy banner
2	of a nation that is thankful for its strengths and committed to curing its faults, and
3	it remains the destination of millions of immigrants attracted by the universal power
4	of the American ideal; and
5	Whereas, the law as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court no longer
6	accords to the Stars and Stripes that reverence, respect and dignity befitting the
7	banner of that most noble experiment of a nation-state; and
8	Whereas, it is only fitting that people everywhere should lend their voices to a
9	forceful call for restoration to the Stars and Stripes of a proper station under law and
10	decency; now, therefore, be it
11	Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the legislature of
12	the state of Wisconsin proposes to the Congress of the United States that procedures
13	be instituted in the Congress to add a new article to the Constitution of the United
14	States, and that the state of Wisconsin requests the Congress to prepare and submit
15	to the several states an amendment to the Constitution of the United States,
16	prohibiting the physical desecration of the flag of the United States; and, be it further
17	<b>Resolved, That</b> the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
18	resolution to the president and secretary of the senate of the United States, to the
19	speaker and clerk of the house of representatives of the United States, to each
20	member of the congressional delegation from this state and to the presiding officer
21	of each house of each state legislature in the United States attesting the adoption of
22	this joint resolution by the 1997 legislature of the state of Wisconsin.
23	(END)

- 2 -