

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 49th Legislature (2004)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION HR1031:

Roberts

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution memorializing Congress to investigate the Federal Communications Commission; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, an estimated 89 million viewers of the Super Bowl XXXVIII were shocked and appalled during the MTV-orchestrated halftime show when Justin Timberlake tore off a piece of Janet Jackson's costume to reveal her breast; and

WHEREAS, officials in charge of the show, including the Columbia Broadcasting System, the National Football League, and MTV, should have been alerted to the possibility that the show would turn indecent after a choreographer stated that there would be shocking moments and the words of the Justin Timberlake song includes the line "I'm gonna have you naked by the end of this song"; and

WHEREAS, the halftime show violated Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules prohibiting noncable television channels from showing obscene material at any time and banning indecent material during prime time hours; and

WHEREAS, numerous prior instances when these indecency standards were challenged did not result in punitive actions by the FCC, but did provide violators advantages in terms of celebrity notoriety and financial remuneration; and

WHEREAS, the FCC or some other entity in the federal government must be given stronger powers to levy fines, which now are far too low to act as a deterrent against obscene and indecent actions on

noncable television, and other forms of punishments in order to protect the morals of this country, particular its young people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives memorializes the members of the Congress to immediately investigate the Federal Communications Commission for failing to act in the past in defense of its rules prohibiting obscene and indecent material on nonnetwork television.

THAT the Congress should also take any and all actions, including heavier fines and other regulatory and criminal penalties, required to protect the American people against the airing of obscene and indecent material being shown during prime time on American television.

THAT copies of this resolution be sent to the Secretary of the United States Senate and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to members of the Federal Communications Commission.

49-2-8509

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02/17/04