

Senate Resolution 468

By: Senators McKoon of the 29th, Harbin of the 16th, Williams of the 27th, Jones of the 25th, Thompson of the 14th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Extending apologies to Dr. Eric Walsh; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Dr. Eric Walsh has been recognized at a state and national level for his
3 expertise and professionalism in health care administration; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Dr. Eric Walsh applied for and received an offer to work for the Georgia
5 Department of Community Health after many distinguished years of service in the health
6 care field; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he moved to Georgia and left his employment in anticipation of beginning work
8 for the State of Georgia; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Georgia Department of Community Health bureaucrats decided to rescind the
10 job offer tendered to Dr. Eric Walsh because of messages he delivered as a lay leader in his
11 church; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the messages were delivered within the four walls of his church as part of
13 worship service and were consistent with his religious beliefs; and
- 14 WHEREAS, there is no evidence Dr. Walsh ever behaved unprofessionally or mistreated any
15 person in his professional career; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Dr. Walsh was forced to file a lawsuit to restore the damage to his professional
17 reputation and to recover income lost due to the Georgia Department of Community Health
18 discriminating against him based on his religious beliefs; and
- 19 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia during this litigation demanded access to Dr. Walsh's
20 private sermon notes and written reflections on his religious studies; and

21 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia withdrew this absurd discovery demand once it was made
22 known to the general public through the media that this demand had been made; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Eric Walsh was put through an incredible ordeal by the decision of the
24 Georgia Department of Community Health to discriminate against him based upon his
25 religious beliefs, which was compounded by the State of Georgia insisting on litigation of
26 a clear-cut case of religious discrimination; and

27 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia continues to issue denials of its wrongful conduct, even
28 after paying Dr. Walsh \$225,000 to settle his lawsuit.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 hereby extend their heartfelt apologies to Dr. Eric Walsh for the discrimination he faced from
31 our state and for the persecution encountered during litigation to restore his good name and
32 professional reputation.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr. Eric Walsh.