

Senate Resolution 605

By: Senators McLaurin of the 14th, Jones II of the 22nd, Jackson of the 41st, Mallow of the 2nd, Harbison of the 15th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning the killing of Alex Pretti and protecting the constitutional rights of peaceful
2 assembly and the right to keep and bear arms; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the United States of America was founded upon the principle that individual
4 liberty, limited government, and constitutional rights are not privileges granted by the state,
5 but inherent rights retained by the people; and

6 WHEREAS, among these foundational rights are the freedoms of speech and peaceful
7 assembly protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and the right
8 of the people to keep and bear arms protected by the Second Amendment; and

9 WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that the Second Amendment
10 protects an individual's right to keep and bear arms, including self-defense, as recognized
11 in Heller, and the right to carry a handgun in public for self-defense, as reaffirmed in Bruen;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, on January 24, 2026, during a protest in Minneapolis against the immigration
14 policies of the Trump Administration, United States Border Patrol agents killed Alex Pretti,
15 a Minnesota resident and American citizen; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Pretti dedicated his adult life to serving America's veterans, having worked
17 at a Veterans Affairs hospital since his early twenties, most recently as an intensive care unit
18 nurse; and

19 WHEREAS, on the day of his death, Mr. Pretti was engaged in peaceful protest, exercising
20 his constitutional right to assemble and express political dissent; and

21 WHEREAS, on that same day, Mr. Pretti lawfully carried a handgun in compliance with
22 Minnesota law and the Constitution of the United States; and

23 WHEREAS, publicly available video footage depicts federal agents deploying pepper spray
24 against Mr. Pretti and forcing him to the ground immediately prior to his death; and

25 WHEREAS, nothing shows Mr. Pretti drawing his firearm or attempting to take a firearm
26 from immigration enforcement officials; and

27 WHEREAS, following the killing, Trump administration officials justified the execution
28 solely on the basis that Mr. Pretti was lawfully in possession of a firearm; and

29 WHEREAS, President Trump defended the killing by disseminating an image of Mr. Pretti's
30 lawfully owned handgun, portraying the mere exercise of a constitutional right as evidence
31 of wrongdoing; and

32 WHEREAS, senior administration officials further asserted, without evidence, that an
33 individual legally carrying a firearm was evidence of an intent to commit "maximum
34 damage" against law enforcement, with Stephen Miller publicly labeling Mr. Pretti a
35 "terrorist," and the Secretary Kristi Noem echoing that characterization; and

36 WHEREAS, the National Rifle Association warned against the demonization of law-abiding
37 citizens for exercising constitutional rights; and

38 WHEREAS, law-abiding Americans exercising rights explicitly protected by the Constitution
39 are not terrorists, but participants in the American experiment of self-government that begun
40 250 years ago; and

41 WHEREAS, Americans reasonably expect the federal government to protect constitutional
42 liberties, not to rationalize the killing of citizens by treating the lawful exercise of those
43 liberties as suspicious or sinister; and

44 WHEREAS, Republican voters took President Trump at his word that he would always
45 protect the Second Amendment rather than invoke it as a pretext for lethal force when
46 politically convenient; and

47 WHEREAS, no administration possesses the authority to declare that constitutional rights
48 cease to apply because they obstruct a President's political agenda.

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
50 condemn the killing of Alex Pretti, and condemn the killing of any American citizen where
51 the asserted justification is the lawful exercise of constitutional rights.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of this body reaffirm their sworn duty to
53 uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of
54 Georgia against all threats, foreign and domestic.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate calls upon all elected officials, regardless of
56 party affiliation, to reject rhetoric that equates peaceful protest or lawful firearm possession
57 with criminality or terrorism.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body commit to working together
59 to protect the constitutional rights of peaceful assembly and the right to keep and bear arms,
60 as guaranteed under both state and federal law, from encroachment or abuse by federal
61 immigration law enforcement agencies that have demonstrated a pattern of disregard for the
62 civil liberties of American citizens.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
64 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
65 press.