

10     **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A ‘ONE-**  
20     **SUBJECT’ RULE FOR LEGISLATION IN CONGRESS**

30     **WHEREAS:**     The Maryland Constitution, in Article III, Section 29 states that “every  
40                     Law enacted by the General Assembly shall embrace but one subject,  
50                     and that shall be described in its title”; and,

60     **WHEREAS:**     The United States Constitution contains no such provision and as such,  
70                     Congress is allowed to enact individual pieces of legislation that deal  
80                     with a multitude of subjects; and,

90     **WHEREAS:**     The Maryland one-subject rule bans so-called ‘omnibus’ bills, which  
100                    are very common in Congress; and,

110    **WHEREAS:**     In Congress, legislators can pass a variety of controversial measures by  
120                    attaching their measures to an essential piece of legislation, such as an  
130                    appropriations bill; and,

140    **WHEREAS:**     One of the more egregious examples of this practice is a 2005 bill  
150                    bill containing emergency appropriations for defense spending, the war  
160                    on terror, and tsunami relief; and,

170    **WHEREAS:**     Contained in the aforementioned bill, and not related to the rest of the  
180                    legislation, is the Real ID Act of 2005, a federal mandate forcing states  
190                    to spend millions of dollars to upgrade their driver’s licenses and link  
200                    together their license databases; and,

210    **WHEREAS:**     As a standalone piece of legislation, the Real ID Act was unable to pass  
220                    Congress, but when attached by its sponsor as a rider to the  
230                    appropriations bill, it passed both houses easily and was signed into law  
240                    by the President; and,

250    **WHEREAS:**     The one-subject rule in Maryland allows constituents and legislators  
260                    monitor legislation easily and helps prevent against fraudulent  
270                    legislation; and,

280    **WHEREAS:**     A similar rule applied to the U.S. Congress would help defend against  
290                    riders and omnibus bills that make the legislative process less effective.

300    **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges, that  
310                    by either Constitutional amendment or legislative rule, the Congress to  
320                    enact a one-subject rule for their own legislation, similar to the  
330                    Maryland Constitution’s one-subject rule.

340    **MANDATES:**     Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives  
350                    Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives  
360                    Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate  
370                    John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives  
380                    Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate

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