



**HOUSE RESOLUTION 08-1005**

**BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Weissmann and King, Levy, McNulty, Rose, Solano, Benefield, Curry, Ferrandino, Gagliardi, Garcia, Hodge, Kefalas, Kerr A., Kerr J., Labuda, Madden, Marshall, May M., McGihon, Roberts, Scanlan, Soper, Stafford, and Todd.**

**CONCERNING THE CENSURE OF  
REPRESENTATIVE DOUGLAS BRUCE.**

WHEREAS, On January 14, 2008, an incident occurred during the opening prayer on the floor of the House of Representatives involving physical contact between Representative Douglas Bruce and a photographer for the Rocky Mountain News; and

WHEREAS, The Speaker of the House of Representatives established a special committee pursuant to Rule No. 3 (b) (2), (b) (3), and (b) (8) of the Rules of the House of Representatives consisting of six House members to investigate the circumstances surrounding this incident and, based upon its investigation, to make any recommendations to the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to its charge, the special committee met on January 18, 2008, during which meeting the special committee examined a video recording and heard testimony from four individuals relating to this incident; and

WHEREAS, The video recording and testimony revealed that Representative Douglas Bruce used physical force against the photographer in an effort to prevent him from taking further photographs of Representative Douglas Bruce during the opening prayer; and

WHEREAS, By his conduct, Representative Douglas Bruce sought to prevent the exercise of the right of public access to the proceedings of the House of Representatives pursuant to the provisions of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The special committee concluded that using physical force to prevent unwanted public attention is inconsistent not only with the standards of order and decorum for the House chambers, but with the ordinary standards of decency; and

WHEREAS, On the basis of its investigation, the special committee included in its recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Representatives a recommendation that the House of Representatives censure Representative Douglas Bruce for his inappropriate behavior; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives finds that the members of the House of Representatives should conduct themselves in accordance with the highest moral, ethical, and legal standards in their official duties and in their public and private lives; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives finds that Representative Douglas Bruce behaved inappropriately and in a manner incompatible with the high standards and dignity of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives finds that the conduct of Representative Douglas Bruce has failed to uphold the honor and dignity of the House of Representatives and reflects poorly upon the state of Colorado and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives finds that, during his testimony to the special committee on January 18, 2008, Representative Douglas Bruce failed to acknowledge any wrongdoing or accept full responsibility for his behavior on January 14, 2008; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

(1) That Representative Douglas Bruce is hereby censured by the House of Representatives for just cause; and

(2) That Representative Douglas Bruce is hereby directed to hereafter conduct himself in a manner that comports to the highest standards of legislative conduct and the dignity and decorum of the House of Representatives.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives print this Resolution in its entirety in the House Journal.

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Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Andrew Romanoff  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES