

House Concurrent Resolution No. 53

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES CURTMAN (Sponsor), DAVIS, WHITE, BRATTIN,
MCCAHERTY, BAHR, MCGAUGH, WOOD, HANSEN, BERRY, REDMON, SCHIEBER, REIBOLDT,
LOVE, WILSON AND LANT (Co-sponsors).

6562L.011

2 **WHEREAS**, on the evening of September 11, 2012, a heavily armed group of 125 to 150
3 terrorists attacked the American diplomatic consulate in Benghazi, Libya, brutally killing J.
4 Christopher Stevens, United States Ambassador to Libya, and Sean Smith, a United States
5 Foreign Service Information Management Officer; and

6 **WHEREAS**, several hours later, in the early morning of the next day, a second assault,
7 which included machine gun, rocket, and mortar fire, targeted a nearby CIA annex in a
8 compound approximately one mile from the Benghazi diplomatic consulate, killing Tyrone S.
9 Woods and Glen Doherty, members of the embassy security detail; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, initially, President Obama's administration and the United States
12 Department of State blamed the Benghazi attacks on a spontaneous protest against a video
13 entitled "Innocence of Muslims"; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, on September 14, 2012, in a press briefing White House Press Secretary
16 Jay Carney told reporters that "we don't have and did not have concrete evidence to suggest that
17 this was not in reaction to the film...We have no information to suggest that it was a preplanned
18 attack. The unrest we've seen around the region has been in reaction to a video that Muslims,
19 many Muslims find offensive. And while the violence is reprehensible and unjustified, it is not
20 a reaction to the 9/11 anniversary that we know of, or to U.S. policy"; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2012, Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice
23 appeared on five major interview shows to discuss the attacks. Prior to her appearance, Rice was
24 provided with "talking points" from a CIA memo. Using these talking points as a guide, Rice
25 stated, "Based on the best information we have to date, what our assessment is as of the present
26 is in fact what began spontaneously in Benghazi as a reaction to what had transpired some hours
27 earlier in Cairo were, of course, as you know, there was a violent protest outside of our embassy -
28 sparked by this hateful video"; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, on September 25, 2012, in an address before the United Nations General
31 Assembly, President Obama stated, "The attacks on our civilians in Benghazi were attacks on
32 America...And there should be no doubt that we will be relentless in tracking down the killers
33 and bringing them to justice.". President Obama referred to the video as "a crude and disgusting
34 video [that] sparked outrage throughout the Muslim world". He further stated, "There is no
35 video that justifies an attack on an Embassy."; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, on September 26, 2012, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton acknowledged
38 a possible link between Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and the Benghazi attack; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, on October 4, 2012, 22 days after the attack, FBI investigators were finally
41 allowed access to the scene of the attacks. The crime scene was not secured during that time;
42 and

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44 **WHEREAS**, in the months following the Benghazi attacks, Congressional and
45 administration investigations have been launched, with much debate and controversy over the
46 events before, during, and after the attacks; and

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48 **WHEREAS**, in August 2013, it was reported that the United States had filed criminal
49 charges against several individuals, including militia leader Ahmed Abu Khattala, for alleged
50 involvement in the attacks. To date, few arrests have been made, with no arrests by the Federal
51 Bureau of Investigation, and no one has yet been prosecuted for the attacks; and

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53 **WHEREAS**, on December 19, 2012, Judicial Watch filed a Freedom of Information Act
54 (FOIA) Request with the Department of State. When the Department of State failed to respond
55 to the request by February 4, 2013, Judicial Watch filed a lawsuit, which resulted in the release
56 of seven photographs. On April 18, 2014, Judicial Watch released more than 100 pages of
57 documents obtained through the FOIA lawsuit; and

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59 **WHEREAS**, one of the emails from White House advisor Ben Rhodes underscored a
60 key goal of the White House call to Susan Rice prior to her interviews on September 16, 2012,
61 as "To underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of
62 policy"; and

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64 **WHEREAS**, the documents released by Judicial Watch indicate that it was known from
65 the outset that Islamic terrorists planned and coordinated that the attacks on the consulate in
66 Benghazi; and

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68 **WHEREAS**, despite Congressional subpoenas requesting release of all documents
69 related to the Benghazi attacks, President Obama's administration failed to release documents
70 or heavily redacted documents to Congress that were ultimately turned over to Judicial Watch
71 pursuant to a FOIA lawsuit; and

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73 **WHEREAS**, huge sections of 41 of the unclassified documents released under the FOIA
74 lawsuit are blacked out and there are discrepancies between emails released to Congress and the
75 same emails to Judicial Watch; and

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77 **WHEREAS**, 20 months after the Benghazi attacks which resulted in the murder of four
78 Americans, the complete truth about what occurred before, during, and after the terrorist attacks
79 on September 11, 2012, in Benghazi, Libya is still unknown; and

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81 **WHEREAS**, the American people deserve to know the truth about these events to ensure
82 that those responsible are brought to justice, steps are taken to prevent future terrorists attacks,
83 and any persons responsible for failing to provide information to Congress and the American
84 people are held accountable:

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86 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
87 Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
88 concurring therein, hereby strongly urges the United States Congress to continue investigating
89 the September 11, 2012, terrorist attacks on the American consulate in Benghazi, Libya which
90 resulted in the death of four American citizens; and

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92 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
93 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
94 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United
95 States Senate, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives,
96 the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, and each member of the Missouri
97 Congressional delegation.

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