

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0007

Social studies content standards-political ideologies.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Geringer, Banks, Davis,
Filer, Fornstrom, Lawley, Lien and Neiman and
Senator(s) Biteman and Brennan

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting the Wyoming state board of
2 education to amend the state board's social studies student
3 content and performance standards to include teaching
4 benchmarks that analyze the negative consequences of the
5 political ideologies of communism, fascism and socialism in
6 the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

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8 WHEREAS, the duties of the Wyoming state board of education
9 (state board) include prescribing uniform student content and
10 performance standards for the common core of knowledge,
11 including social studies; and

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13 WHEREAS, the Wyoming Legislature requests that the state
14 board consider amending the social studies content and

1 performance standards, as part of the state board's scheduled
2 review process, to include teaching benchmarks addressing
3 communism, fascism and socialism; and

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5 WHEREAS, despite continued human rights travesties committed
6 by communist, fascist and socialist regimes in countries such
7 as China, North Korea, Russia, Cambodia, Venezuela and Cuba,
8 multiple national studies and surveys indicate that favorable
9 views of communism, fascism and socialism are significantly
10 higher among young adults in the United States than among
11 older generations; and

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13 WHEREAS, it is important for Wyoming's youth to develop a
14 critical and historically informed understanding of the
15 realities of communism, fascism and socialism, including the
16 impacts of these ideologies on individual liberty; and

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18 WHEREAS, new teaching benchmarks may include instruction on
19 documented historical events and human rights abuses
20 attributable to communist, fascist and socialist regimes,
21 including but not limited to, mass repression, murder,
22 violent land seizures, political imprisonment, concentration

1 camps, forced labor, systematic poverty, general economic
2 deterioration and widespread loss of personal freedoms; and

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4 WHEREAS, new teaching benchmarks may include instruction that
5 compares fascism and collectivist ideologies, including
6 communism and socialism, with the founding principles of the
7 United States, including democracy, individual rights and
8 freedoms, private property rights, merit-based advancement
9 and free enterprise; and

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11 WHEREAS, new teaching benchmarks may include instruction on
12 economic, industrial and political conditions and events
13 commonly associated with the historical emergence of
14 communist revolutions, including the progression from social
15 democratic ideology and policies to revolutionary state
16 seizure of private property and centralized control; and

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18 WHEREAS, new teaching benchmarks may include instruction on
19 common historical and modern methods used to spread
20 communist, fascist and socialist ideologies, including the
21 advancement of critical theory, public shaming and coercive
22 social pressure, censorship or suppression of dissenting
23 viewpoints and forced ideological conformity.

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2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE
3 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

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5 **Section 1.** That the Wyoming Legislature requests that
6 the Wyoming state board of education amend the state board's
7 social studies student content and performance standards to
8 include teaching benchmarks that analyze the negative
9 consequences of the political ideologies of communism,
10 fascism and socialism in the twentieth and twenty-first
11 centuries.

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13 **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
14 transmit copies of this resolution to the state
15 superintendent of public instruction and the Wyoming state
16 board of education.

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(END)