

1 HJR282
2 201968-1
3 By Representative Jackson
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 28-MAY-19

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8 URGING THAT PRESIDENT TRUMP RELEASE HIS TAX RETURNS
9 TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.
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11 WHEREAS, according to the Tax History Project, every
12 President since Gerald Ford has disclosed his tax information
13 to the public; and

14 WHEREAS, tax returns provide an important baseline
15 disclosure; they contain information highly relevant to an
16 individual's qualifications to hold the highest office in this
17 nation, including whether the candidate paid taxes, what they
18 own, what they have borrowed, whether they have made
19 charitable contributions, and whether they have taken
20 advantage of tax loopholes; and

21 WHEREAS, disclosure of the President's tax returns
22 could aid those investigating Russian electoral influence in
23 determining if there was, in fact, any undue influence in the
24 2016 election; the President's financial ties to the Russian
25 Federation and Russian citizens, including debts owed; whether
26 he shares any partnership ventures, equity interest, joint

1 ventures, or licensing agreements with Russia or Russian
2 entities; and

3 WHEREAS, President Trump's close advisors, including
4 Carter Page, Paul Manafort, Roger Stone, and General Michael
5 Flynn have been under investigation for their ties to the
6 Russian Federation;

7 WHEREAS, a Russian Deputy Foreign Minister told
8 Interfax, a Russian Media Outlet, on September 10, "There were
9 contacts" with Donald Trump's 2016 campaign; this has been
10 corroborated by American news reports that members of
11 President Trump's inner circle were in contact with senior
12 Russian officials throughout the 2016 campaign; and

13 WHEREAS, if there was indeed no undue influence on
14 President Trump or his 2016 presidential campaign, the release
15 of tax returns could afford the President an opportunity to
16 prove his innocence; and

17 WHEREAS, the Emoluments Clause was included in the
18 United States Constitution for the express purpose of
19 preventing federal officials from accepting any present,
20 emolument, or titles from any prince or foreign state; and

21 WHEREAS, according to a 2016 candidate filing with
22 the Federal Election Commission, President Trump holds 564
23 financial positions in companies located around the world; and

24 WHEREAS, against the advice of ethics attorneys and
25 the Office of Government Ethics, President Trump has refused
26 to divest ownership stakes in his businesses; President Trump
27 earned \$434 million during 2018, much of which was derived

1 from his ownership of hotels in which foreign dignitaries and
2 business representatives conveniently prefer to lodge when
3 hoping for an audience with the President; and

4 WHEREAS, according to the Washington Post, the Trump
5 International Hotel in Washington, D.C. has hired a Director
6 of Diplomatic Sales to generate high-price business among
7 foreign leaders and diplomatic delegations; and

8 WHEREAS, the most-signed petition on the White House
9 website calls for the release of the President's tax returns
10 and information to verify compliance with the Emoluments
11 Clause; 1,114,870 American citizens have signed that petition
12 as of this date; and

13 WHEREAS, the Chairman of the United States House of
14 Representatives Ways and Means Committee on Taxation and the
15 Senate Finance Committee had the authority to request the
16 President's tax returns under Section 6103 of the Internal
17 Revenue Service Code; the Joint Committee on Taxation reviewed
18 the tax returns of President Richard Nixon in 1974 and made
19 the information public; and

20 WHEREAS, the House Ways and Means Committee used
21 Internal Revenue Code Section 6103 authority in 2014 to make
22 public the confidential information of 51 taxpayers; and

23 WHEREAS, the New York State Assembly passed
24 legislation on May 22, 2019, to require the state's tax
25 commissioner to provide New York state tax returns to Congress
26 upon request by the House Ways and Means Committee, clearly

1 signalling the state's agreement to release the tax returns of
2 one of its residents; and

3 WHEREAS, the American people have the right to know
4 whether or not their President is operating under conflicts of
5 interest relating to international affairs, tax returns,
6 government contracts, or otherwise; now therefore,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
8 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body hereby respectfully
9 requests that the Office of the President of the United States
10 immediately release the tax return information of President
11 Donald J. Trump for the tax years 2006-2016 for review in
12 closed executive session by the United States House of
13 Representatives Committee on Ways and Means as provided by
14 Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body requests that
16 the Ways and Means Committee vote on releasing the information
17 to the full House of Representatives and the American public.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body supports
19 transparency in government and the long-standing tradition of
20 Presidents and presidential candidates disclosing their tax
21 returns.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
23 resolution be provided to the Alabama Congressional
24 Delegation, the United States House of Representatives
25 Committee on Ways and Means, the Joint Tax Committee of the
26 United States Congress, and the President of the United
27 States, so that the sentiments of this body may be known.

