

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 479

Censuring Representative Bennie Thompson.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 2023

Mr. GAETZ (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ethics

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# RESOLUTION

Censuring Representative Bennie Thompson.

Whereas, on December 30, 2022, Representative Bennie Thompson, then Chair of the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol (“January 6th Committee”), sent a letter to the Biden White House, along with property of the House of Representatives, in violation of longstanding Rules of the House of Representatives, including the Rules for the 117th Congress;

Whereas, on December 30, 2022, Representative Thompson also sent a similar letter and records to the Department of Homeland Security, also in violation of the Rules;

Whereas, as a committee chair, Representative Thompson was required, under rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, to turn over all committee records to

the Clerk of the House at the close of Congress, in order to further transparency and to preserve the historical record of Congress;

Whereas Representative Thompson intentionally violated this rule, as evidenced by his letters to the executive branch, which expressly detail his “expectation” that the House property improperly turned over to the executive branch would eventually be turned over to the National Archives, an expectation that could only have salience if the materials turned over were, in fact, congressional records;

Whereas Congress still is unsure of the scope of the records kept or improperly destroyed by the January 6th Committee, as evidenced by the May 18, 2023 letter from Representative Barry Loudermilk, chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight of the Committee on House Administration, to the National Archives requesting a catalogue of records produced by the January 6th Committee; and

Whereas, under rule VII and rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 117th and 118th Congresses, the responsibility to ensure proper recordkeeping by a committee resides with the committee chairperson, a responsibility that Representative Thompson intentionally violated or recklessly neglected: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That—

2               (1) Representative Bennie Thompson of Mis-  
3       sissippi be censured;

1           (2) Representative Bennie Thompson forthwith  
2           present himself in the well of the House of Rep-  
3           resentatives for the pronouncement of censure;

4           (3) Representative Bennie Thompson be cen-  
5           sured with the public reading of this resolution by  
6           the Speaker; and

7           (4) Representative Bennie Thompson be, and is  
8           hereby, removed from the Committee on Homeland  
9           Security.

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