

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

---

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, University of Notre Dame's President Emeritus, for his unmatched commitment to the university and his substantial contributions to higher education, the Catholic Church, national and international affairs.

---

**BROWN, ZAKAS, BRODEN**

---

\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

---

---



**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

---

1           A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Father  
2 Theodore M. Hesburgh, University of Notre Dame's President  
3 Emeritus, for his unmatched commitment to the university and his  
4 substantial contributions to higher education, the Catholic Church,  
5 national and international affairs.

6           *Whereas, Father Theodore M. Hesburgh served as the*  
7 *President of the University of Notre Dame from 1952-1987;*

8           *Whereas, The current president of the university, Reverend*  
9 *John I. Jenkins, explained that with Hesburgh's leadership,*  
10 *charisma, and vision, he turned a relatively small Catholic*  
11 *college known for football into one of the nation's great*  
12 *institutions for higher learning;*

13           *Whereas, In Father Hesburgh's historic service to the*  
14 *nation, the Church, and the world, he was a steadfast champion*  
15 *for human rights, the cause of peace, and care for the poor;*

16           *Whereas, Father Hesburgh's greatest influence was*  
17 *perhaps on the lives of generations of Notre Dame students,*  
18 *whom he taught, counseled, and befriended;*

19           *Whereas, Father Hesburgh was born May 25, 1917, in*  
20 *Syracuse, New York, the son of Anne Murphy Hesburgh and*  
21 *Theodore Bernard Hesburgh, an executive of the Pittsburgh*  
22 *Plate Glass Company;*



1           *Whereas, Educated at Notre Dame and the Gregorian*  
2           *University in Rome, Father Hesburgh received a bachelor of*  
3           *philosophy degree in 1939;*

4           *Whereas, Father Hesburgh was ordained a priest of the*  
5           *Congregation of Holy Cross in Sacred Heart Church on Notre*  
6           *Dame's Campus on June 24, 1943, by Fort Wayne Bishop John*  
7           *F. Knoll;*

8           *Whereas, Following his ordination, Father Hesburgh*  
9           *continued his study of sacred theology at the Catholic*  
10          *University of America in Washington, D.C., receiving his*  
11          *doctorate in 1945;*

12          *Whereas, That same year, Father Hesburgh joined the*  
13          *Notre Dame faculty and served as chaplain to World War II*  
14          *veterans on campus, in addition to his teaching duties in the*  
15          *Religion Department;*

16          *Whereas, Father Hesburgh was appointed as the head of*  
17          *the Religion Department in 1948, and the following year was*  
18          *appointed as executive vice president in the university*  
19          *administration of Reverend John J. Cavanaugh;*

20          *Whereas, In June 1952, at the age of thirty-five, Father*  
21          *Hesburgh became the fifteenth President of the University of*  
22          *Notre Dame;*

23          *Whereas, The two major changes during the Hesburgh era*  
24          *were the transference of governance in 1967 from the*  
25          *Congregation of Holy Cross to a two-tiered, mixed board of lay*  
26          *and religious trustees and fellows, in addition to the admission*  
27          *of women to the undergraduate program in 1972;*



1           *Whereas, Father Hesburgh played an active and influential*  
2 *role in national and international affairs during and after his*  
3 *presidency, holding sixteen presidential appointments over the*  
4 *years that involved him in virtually all major social issues,*  
5 *including civil rights, peaceful uses of atomic energy, campus*  
6 *unrest, treatment of Vietnam draft opponents, Third World*  
7 *development, and immigration reform;*

8           *Whereas, Justice was the focus of many of Father*  
9 *Hesburgh's off-campus activities: he was a charter member of*  
10 *the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, created in 1957, and he*  
11 *chaired the commission from 1969-1972, at which time*  
12 *President Richard Nixon replaced him as chairman because of*  
13 *his criticism of the administrations's civil rights record;*

14           *Whereas, As a member of President Ford's Presidential*  
15 *Clemency Board, Father Hesburgh was one of the individuals*  
16 *tasked with deciding the fate of various groups of Vietnam War*  
17 *opponents;*

18           *Whereas, Father Hesburgh's work on these commissions*  
19 *led to the creation at Notre Dame Law School of the Center for*  
20 *Civil and Human Rights;*

21           *Whereas, In 1971, Father Hesburgh joined the board of the*  
22 *Overseas Development Council, a private organization*  
23 *supporting interests of the underdeveloped world, chaired it*  
24 *until 1982, and during this time led fund-raising efforts that*  
25 *averted mass starvation in Cambodia from 1979-1980;*

26           *Whereas, From 1979-1981 Father Hesburgh also chaired*  
27 *the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, the*  
28 *recommendations of which became the basis of Congressional*  
29 *reform legislation five years later;*



1           *Whereas, In 1982, Father Hesburgh helped organize a*  
2           *meeting in Vatican City of fifty-eight world class scientists,*  
3           *from the East as well as the West, who called for the*  
4           *elimination of nuclear weapons, and subsequently brought*  
5           *together in Vienna, leaders of six faith traditions who endorsed*  
6           *the view of these scientists;*

7           *Whereas, Father Hesburgh's global perspective was the*  
8           *impetus for the establishment at Notre Dame of the Kellogg*  
9           *Institute for International Studies and the Kroc Institute for*  
10          *International Peace Studies;*

11          *Whereas, Father Hesburgh also served as a permanent*  
12          *Vatican City representative to the International Atomic Energy*  
13          *Agency in Vienna from 1956-1970;*

14          *Whereas, In 1972, at the request of Pope Paul VI, Father*  
15          *Hesburgh opened the Ecumenical Institute in Tantur,*  
16          *Jerusalem, which Notre Dame continues to operate;*

17          *Whereas, Pope Paul VI also appointed Father Hesburgh as*  
18          *head of the Vatican representatives attending the twentieth*  
19          *anniversary of the United Nations' human rights declaration in*  
20          *Tehran, Iran in 1968, and six years later as a member of the*  
21          *Holy See's U.N. delegation;*

22          *Whereas, In 1983, Father Hesburgh was appointed by Pope*  
23          *John Paul II to the Pontifical Council for Culture, charged with*  
24          *finding ways in which the saving message of the Gospel could*  
25          *be preached effectively in the world's vastly different cultures;*

26          *Whereas, On more than one occasion, Father Hesburgh*  
27          *was the first Catholic priest to serve in various positions,*  
28          *including his years as a director of the Chase Manhattan Bank,*  
29          *and as a trustee, and later chairman, of the Rockefeller*  
30          *Foundation;*

31



1           *Whereas, Father Hesburgh's appointment as ambassador*  
2 *to the 1979 U.N. Conference on Science and Technology for*  
3 *Development was the first time a priest had served in a formal*  
4 *diplomatic role for the U.S. government;*

5           *Whereas, Father Hesburgh's stature as an elder statesman*  
6 *in American higher education is reflected in his 150 honorary*  
7 *degrees, which is believed to be the most ever awarded to one*  
8 *person;*

9           *Whereas, In July 2000, Father Hesburgh's public service*  
10 *career was honored as he became the first individual from*  
11 *higher education to be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal,*  
12 *presented by President Bill Clinton;*

13           *Whereas, Father Hesburgh also received the nation's*  
14 *highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom, from President*  
15 *Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964;*

16           *Whereas, When Father Hesburgh stepped down as the*  
17 *University of Notre Dame's leader on June 1, 1987, it ended the*  
18 *longest tenure at that time among active presidents of American*  
19 *colleges and universities;*

20           *Whereas, After a year-long sabbatical, Father Hesburgh*  
21 *returned to a retirement office on the thirteenth floor of the*  
22 *newly named Hesburgh Library on Notre Dame's campus;*

23           *Whereas, One of Father Hesburgh's first projects after his*  
24 *return to Notre Dame was the completion of his autobiography,*  
25 *"God, Country, Notre Dame" which was published in*  
26 *November, 1990, and became a national best seller; and*

27           *Whereas, It is fitting that the Indiana General Assembly*  
28 *gives special recognition to Father Theodore M. Hesburgh for*  
29 *his invaluable gifts to Notre Dame, The State of Indiana, and*  
30 *our country: Therefore,*



1                    *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*  
2                    *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:*

3                    SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly memorializes  
4                    Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, University of Notre Dame's President  
5                    Emeritus, for his unmatched commitment to the university and his  
6                    substantial contributions to higher education, the Catholic Church,  
7                    national and international affairs.

8                    SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to  
9                    transmit a copy of this Resolution to Reverend John I. Jenkins,  
10                    President of the University of Notre Dame.

