

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 82

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 24, 1996

By Senators CAFIERO, KOSCO and LaRossa

1   **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** recognizing the significant contribution to law  
2       enforcement provided by "America's Most Wanted" and urging the Fox  
3       Broadcasting Company to continue to make this program available to the  
4       American public.  
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6   **WHEREAS**, The Fox Broadcasting Company for the past eight years has  
7       provided a valuable public service to the people of this nation by bringing  
8       to them each week the television program titled "America's Most Wanted";  
9       and  
10   **WHEREAS**, This program, hosted by victim rights advocate John Walsh, blends  
11       traditional journalism with film reenactments of crimes to enlist a  
12       nationwide audience in the identification of wanted criminals by means of  
13       a toll-free hotline which receives, on average, 2,500 calls per week; and  
14   **WHEREAS**, The success of "America's Most Wanted" in achieving its goal of  
15       getting dangerous criminals off the streets is attested to by its record: 425  
16       fugitives have been captured as a direct result of the program, with 11 of  
17       them coming off the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list; and  
18   **WHEREAS**, In addition to its "capture record" of more than one per show,  
19       "America's Most Wanted," through its missing child alerts, has been  
20       instrumental in the recovery of 19 missing children; and  
21   **WHEREAS**, In addition to its well-deserved popularity with television viewers  
22       in New Jersey and across the nation, "America's Most Wanted" has  
23       received accolades from numerous law enforcement agencies, including  
24       the FBI, for its contributions to law enforcement; and  
25   **WHEREAS**, Despite the wide acclaim this program has received and its  
26       admirable record of protecting the public by bringing criminal fugitives to  
27       justice, the Fox Broadcasting Company has decided to eliminate  
28       "America's Most Wanted" from its fall schedule; and  
29   **WHEREAS**, The cancellation of "America's Most Wanted" by the Fox  
30       Broadcasting Company would represent an irreplaceable loss to the law-  
31       abiding public and a setback for law enforcement agencies nationwide;  
32       now, therefore,

1       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General*  
2 *Assembly concurring):*

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4       1. This House duly recognizes and commends the significant contributions  
5 to law enforcement and public safety made by "America's Most Wanted"  
6 over the past eight years. By focusing the light of public scrutiny on the  
7 nefarious deeds of society's lawless element, this television program has  
8 assisted in the apprehension and prosecution of hundreds of criminals who  
9 might otherwise continue to roam free and to prey on law-abiding citizens.

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11       2. This House further urges the Fox Broadcasting Company, in recognition  
12 of the significant contributions of "America's Most Wanted" noted in this  
13 resolution, to reconsider its decision to drop this program from its fall  
14 schedule and to reinstate "America's Most Wanted" in its traditional time slot  
15 or one that is equally accessible to the nation's television viewers.

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17       3. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of  
18 the Senate and Speaker of the General Assembly, and attested by the  
19 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the General Assembly thereof,  
20 respectively, shall be transmitted to Mr. Rupert Murdoch, Chairman, News  
21 Corporation Ltd., and to Mr. John Matoian, President, Fox Broadcasting  
22 Company.

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#### STATEMENT

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27       This resolution recognizes the valuable public service provided by the  
28 television program "America's Most Wanted" over the past eight years in  
29 assisting in the identification and capture of more than 400 criminal fugitives  
30 and the recovery of 19 missing children. The resolution further urges the Fox  
31 Broadcasting Company to reconsider its decision to drop "America's Most  
32 Wanted" from its fall schedule and to reinstate this program at its traditional  
33 time.

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38       Urges Fox Broadcasting Company to reinstate "America's Most Wanted."