

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 70

Expressing the sense of the Congress that State and local governments should be encouraged, and have the right, to pass laws and ordinances designed to preserve and protect the safety and well-being of young people.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 1997

Mr. VENTO (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Ms. LOFGREN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that State and local governments should be encouraged, and have the right, to pass laws and ordinances designed to preserve and protect the safety and well-being of young people.

Whereas the incidence of violent crime in the United States has increased alarmingly in recent years, with young people facing the highest risk of any group in the United States of nonfatal assault;

Whereas the future of communities in the United States, and the future of society in general, is inextricably linked to the well-being of young people;

Whereas the number of young people arrested for murder has increased 128 percent during the past decade, and an es-

estimated 60 percent of crimes reported are being committed by young people between 10 and 20 years of age;

Whereas schools, churches, playgrounds, and community recreation facilities are designed to function as safe places for young people to congregate;

Whereas facilities designed to offer young people alternatives to violence should be free from the dangers posed by firearms and other weapons;

Whereas State and local governments are obligated to protect and preserve the well-being and safety of their citizens, as such governments are best able to respond to the unique safety needs of their communities;

Whereas the safety of young people is greatly enhanced by measures designed to ban firearms and other weapons from public facilities;

Whereas State and local governments should not be impeded in their efforts to control the escalating damages caused by firearms and other weapons in their communities; and

Whereas certain special interest groups have actively sought to limit the ability of State and local governments to respond to community safety needs: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that
 3 State and local governments should be encouraged, and
 4 have the right, to respond to the needs of their commu-
 5 nities by enacting laws and ordinances designed to pre-
 6 serve and protect the safety and well-being of young peo-
 7 ple, including laws and ordinances that seek to ban the
 8 possession of firearms and other weapons in public facili-

- 1 ties by individuals other than police officers, security
- 2 guards, and other individuals charged with the protection
- 3 and security of such facilities.

