

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 178

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of “family friendly” programming on television.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of “family friendly” programming on television.

Whereas American children and adolescents spend between 22 and 28 hours per week viewing television—more than any other activity except sleeping;

Whereas American homes have an average of 2.75 television sets, and 87 percent of homes with children having more than one television set;

Whereas a very limited number of prime time programs are suitable for the entire family;

Whereas surveys of television content demonstrate that many programs contain substantial sexual and/or violent content;

Whereas parents are ultimately responsible for the appropriate supervision of their child’s television viewing, and critical viewing and “co-viewing” of television programming with the child are especially important;

Whereas “family friendly” programming means programs which are relevant, interesting, and appropriate for audiences of all ages, including movies, series, documentaries, and informational programs aired during hours when children and adults might be together watching television (between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.);

Whereas “family friendly” programming is of a type that the average viewer or parent would not be embarrassed to watch with children in the room and ideally presents an uplifting message;

Whereas efforts must be made by television networks, studios, and the production community to produce more quality family friendly programs and to air them during times when parents and children are likely to be viewing together;

Whereas members of the Forum on Family Friendly Programming market products and services to entire families and are concerned about the dwindling availability of family friendly television programs during prime time viewing hours; and

Whereas Congress encourages activities by the Forum and other entities designed to promote family friendly programming, including—

- (1) participating in meetings with leadership of major television networks, studios, and production companies to share concerns;

(2) expressing the importance of family friendly programming at industry conferences, meetings, and forums;

(3) honoring outstanding family friendly television programs with a new tribute, the Family Program Awards, to be held annually in Los Angeles, California;

(4) establishing a development fund to finance family friendly scripts; and

(5) underwriting scholarships at television studies departments at institutions of higher education to encourage student interest in family friendly programming: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes and honors the efforts of the
4 Forum on Family Friendly Programming and other
5 entities supporting family friendly programming;

6 (2) supports efforts to encourage television net-
7 works, studios, and the production community to
8 produce more quality family friendly programs;

9 (3) supports the Family Friendly Programming
10 Awards, which will encourage, recognize, and cele-
11 brate creative excellence in, and commitment to,
12 family friendly programming; and

13 (4) encourages the media and American adver-
14 tisers to further a family friendly television environ-
15 ment within which appropriate advertisements can
16 accompany the programming.

