

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 17

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should develop, promote, and implement voluntary policies to slow the population growth of the Nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 1999

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should develop, promote, and implement voluntary policies to slow the population growth of the Nation.

Whereas rapid population growth creates serious problems both in the United States and abroad;

Whereas the people of the United States envision a world with a healthy environment, clean air and water, uncluttered land, ample open space, natural beauty, wilderness, and abundant wildlife, in which the dignity of human life is enhanced;

Whereas rapid population growth increasingly depletes irreplaceable natural resources, including energy resources;

Whereas rapid population growth significantly increases the difficulty and cost of solving the social, economic, and po-

litical problems of the United States, and directly contributes to the pollution and degradation of the environment;

Whereas the right of families to choose both the number of children they hope to have and the timing of the births of those children is a fundamental human right;

Whereas the United States has the fastest growing population among developed countries;

Whereas the United States has the highest rates of teenage pregnancy and childbirth among developed countries;

Whereas nearly 60 percent of pregnancies in the United States are unintended, resulting in one of the highest abortion rates among developed countries;

Whereas the Commission on Population Growth and the American Future in 1972 and the President's Council on Sustainable Development in 1996 found that slowing population growth is important to improving the quality of life in the United States;

Whereas delaying efforts to slow population growth will increase the difficulty and cost of achieving that goal; and

Whereas failure to slow population growth voluntarily would result in a significant deterioration of the quality of life for all Americans: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that the
 3 United States should develop, promote, and implement, at
 4 the earliest possible time and by voluntary means consist-
 5 ent with human rights and individual conscience, the poli-
 6 cies necessary to slow the population growth of the United

- 1 States, and thereby promote the future well-being of the
- 2 people of this Nation and of the world.

