

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 93

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 4, 1999

Received and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the social problem of child abuse and neglect and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of this problem.

Whereas each year more than 3,000,000 children in the United States are reported as suspected victims of child abuse and neglect;

Whereas more than 500,000 American children are currently unable to live safely with their families and have been placed in foster homes and institutions;

Whereas it is estimated that more than 1,000 children in the United States, 78 percent of whom are less than 5 years of age and 38 percent of whom are less than 1 year of age, lose their lives each year as a direct result of abuse and neglect;

Whereas the tragic social problem of child abuse and neglect results in human and economic costs due to its relationship to crime and delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and welfare dependency; and

Whereas April has been designated by the President as Child Abuse Prevention Month to focus public awareness on this social ill: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) it is the sense of the Congress that—

4 (A) the faith community, nonprofit organi-
5 zations, State and local officials involved in pre-
6 vention of child abuse and neglect, and volun-
7 teers throughout the United States should re-
8 commit themselves and mobilize their resources
9 to assist children in danger of abuse or neglect;

10 (B) Federal resources should be mar-
11 shalled in a manner that maximizes their im-
12 pact on the prevention of child abuse and ne-
13 glect;

14 (C) because abuse and neglect of children
15 increases the likelihood that they will later en-
16 gage in criminal activity, State and local offi-

1 cials should be provided with increased flexi-
2 bility that allows them to use Federal law en-
3 forcement resources in the fight to prevent child
4 abuse and neglect if they consider that use ap-
5 propriate; and

6 (D) child protective services agencies, law
7 enforcement agencies, and the judicial system
8 should coordinate their efforts to the maximum
9 extent possible to prevent child abuse and ne-
10 glect; and

11 (2) the Congress—

12 (A) supports efforts in the United States
13 to—

14 (i) focus the attention of the Nation
15 on the disturbing problem of child abuse;

16 (ii) demonstrate gratitude to the peo-
17 ple in the United States who work to keep
18 children safe; and

19 (iii) encourage individuals to take ac-
20 tion in their own communities to make
21 them healthier places in which children can
22 grow and thrive; and

23 (B) commends the faith community, non-
24 profit organizations, State and local officials in-
25 volved in prevention of child abuse and neglect,

1 and volunteers throughout America for their ef-
2 forts on behalf of abused and neglected children
3 everywhere.

Passed the House of Representatives April 29, 1999.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.