

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 526

Encouraging and promoting greater involvement of fathers in their children's lives and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding a National Responsible Father's Day.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 14, 2000

Mr. CARSON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## RESOLUTION

Encouraging and promoting greater involvement of fathers in their children's lives and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding a National Responsible Father's Day.

Whereas 40 percent of children who live in households without a father have not seen their father in at least one year and 50 percent of such children have never visited their father's home;

Whereas approximately 50 percent of all children born in the United States spend at least half of their childhood in a family without a father figure;

Whereas nearly 20 percent of children in grades 6 through 12 report that they have not had a meaningful conversation with even one parent in over a month;

Whereas 3 out of 4 adolescents report that “they do not have adults in their lives that model positive behaviors”;

Whereas many of the United States leading experts on family and child development agree that it is in the best interests both of children and of the United States to encourage more two-parent, father-involved families to form and endure;

Whereas it is important to promote responsible fatherhood and encourage loving and healthy relationships between parents and their children in order to increase the chance that children will have two caring parents to help them grow up healthy and secure and not in order to—

(1) denigrate the standing or parenting efforts of single mothers, whose efforts are heroic;

(2) lessen the protection of children from abusive parents;

(3) cause women to remain in or enter into abusive relationships; or

(4) compromise the health or safety of a custodial parent;

Whereas children who are apart from their biological father are, in comparison to other children—

(1) five times more likely to live in poverty; and

(2) more likely to—

(A) bring weapons and drugs into the classroom;

(B) commit crime;

(C) drop out of school;

(D) be abused;

(E) commit suicide;

(F) abuse alcohol or drugs; and

(G) become pregnant as teenagers;

Whereas the Federal Government spends billions of dollars to address these social ills and very little to address the causes of such social ills;

Whereas violent criminals are overwhelmingly males who grew up without fathers;

Whereas the number of children living with only a mother increased from just over 5 million in 1960 to 17 million in 1999, and between 1981 and 1991, the percentage of children living with only one parent increased from 19 percent to 25 percent;

Whereas between 20 percent and 30 percent of families in poverty are headed by women who have suffered domestic violence during the past year and between 40 percent and 60 percent of women with children who receive welfare were abused at some time in their lives;

Whereas millions of single mothers in the United States are heroically struggling to raise their children in safe, loving environments;

Whereas responsible fatherhood should always recognize and promote values of nonviolence;

Whereas child support is an important means by which a parent can take financial responsibility for a child and emotional support is an important means by which a parent can take social responsibility for a child;

Whereas because children learn by example, community programs that help mold young men into positive role models for their children need to be encouraged;

Whereas promoting responsible fatherhood is not meant to diminish the parenting efforts of single mothers but rather to increase the likelihood that children will have two caring parents to help them grow up in loving environments;

Whereas Congress has begun to take notice of this issue with legislation introduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate to address the epidemic of fatherlessness; and

Whereas Sunday, June 18, 2000, is Father's Day: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That—

2               (1) the House of Representatives—

3                       (A) recognizes the need to encourage active  
4                       involvement of fathers in the rearing and devel-  
5                       opment of their children;

6                       (B) recognizes that while there are millions  
7                       of fathers who serve as a wonderful caring par-  
8                       ent for their children, there are children on Fa-  
9                       ther's Day who will have no one to celebrate  
10                      with;

11                     (C) urges fathers to participate in their  
12                     children's lives both financially and emotionally;

13                     (D) encourages fathers to devote time, en-  
14                     ergy, and resources to their children;

15                     (E) urges fathers to understand the level  
16                     of responsibility required when fathering a child  
17                     and to fulfill that responsibility; and

18                     (F) is committed to assist absent fathers  
19                     become more responsible and engaged in their  
20                     children's lives; and

1           (2) it is the sense of the House of Representa-  
2       tives that—

3           (A) a National Responsible Father's Day  
4       should be established to encourage fathers  
5       around the country to reconnect and rededicate  
6       themselves to their children's lives, to spend  
7       time with their children, and to express their  
8       love and support for their children; and

9           (B) the President should issue a proclama-  
10      tion calling upon the people of the United  
11      States to observe such a day with appropriate  
12      ceremonies and activities.

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