

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 338

Commemorating the 15th anniversary of Rebuilding Together, commending Rebuilding Together for its service, and encouraging Americans to volunteer with Rebuilding Together and similar community organizations.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 21, 2003

Ms. CARSON of Indiana submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 15th anniversary of Rebuilding Together, commending Rebuilding Together for its service, and encouraging Americans to volunteer with Rebuilding Together and similar community organizations.

Whereas more than 24,000,000 homeowners in the United States live in dilapidated or substandard houses because their advanced age, disability, or insufficient income makes it impossible for them to maintain safe and habitable homes;

Whereas more than 55,000,000 Americans, or nearly 1 in 5 United States citizens, are disabled, and 33,000,000 Americans have severe disabilities;

Whereas nearly 1,500,000 elderly homeowners lack the basic elements of housing security such as complete and func-

tional plumbing, a reliable source of heating and cooling, and necessary safety features such as grab bars and wheelchair ramps;

Whereas 61% of the Nation's lowest-income homeowners are elderly, and the elderly population of the United States is expected to double by 2025;

Whereas 92% of elderly Americans want to remain as long as possible in their own affordable, safe, and structurally sound housing;

Whereas the Federal Government promotes and encourages sustainable and strong neighborhoods by preserving and rehabilitating existing housing stock in partnership with State and local governments and with the critical assistance of volunteer organizations;

Whereas improving existing housing and community facilities strengthens neighborhoods, restores the pride of homeowners, and sustains and nurtures the families who reside in these neighborhoods;

Whereas home equity is the best way for lower-income families to build wealth and for lower-income communities to rebuild their neighborhoods;

Whereas preserving existing houses and community facilities is a cost-effective way of meeting the housing needs of low-income and elderly households;

Whereas home improvement and rehabilitation strengthens the national economy by promoting the production and sale of goods and services, encouraging ongoing investment, promoting economic and civic responsibility that rejuvenates communities, and enhancing the value of most Americans' largest investments, their homes;

Whereas the community-building activities of neighborhood-based nonprofit organizations empower individuals to improve their lives and make communities safer and healthier for families;

Whereas Rebuilding Together, the largest volunteer nonprofit housing rehabilitation organization, was founded in 1988 to rehabilitate houses for low-income homeowners who are elderly, disabled, or families with children and who are unable to do the work themselves;

Whereas Rebuilding Together rehabilitates and improves community centers, nonprofit facilities, and neighborhood parks that provide support to low-income and elderly residents;

Whereas Rebuilding Together is the Nation's leading expert in delivering voluntary home safety modification services that prevent accidents and hospitalizations;

Whereas Rebuilding Together is organized in all 50 States and the District of Columbia and has 252 local affiliates, each of which is an organization described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code and has a locally-elected voluntary board of directors;

Whereas in its 15-year history, Rebuilding Together has rehabilitated more than 80,000 houses and expects to complete work on another 50,000 houses by the year 2010;

Whereas Rebuilding Together provides opportunities for people from every segment of society to volunteer to help those in need of basic home maintenance assistance; and

Whereas Rebuilding Together helps keep low-income homeowners who are elderly, disabled, or families with children

living in safe, warm, and dry conditions: Now, therefore,  
be it

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

3           (1) commemorates the 15th anniversary of Re-  
4       building Together;

5           (2) commends Rebuilding Together, its 252 af-  
6       filiate chapters, and the nearly 2,300,000 volunteers  
7       who have helped rehabilitate more than 80,000  
8       houses since 1988;

9           (3) recognizes the importance of volunteer orga-  
10       nizations such as Rebuilding Together in meeting  
11       the growing challenge of providing housing rehabili-  
12       tation assistance to low-income and elderly home-  
13       owners;

14          (4) calls upon State and local governments to  
15       cooperate with Rebuilding Together in preserving,  
16       rehabilitating, and improving existing housing;

17          (5) asks all Americans to recognize the value of  
18       preserving existing housing and to consider volun-  
19       teering with Rebuilding Together and other similar  
20       organizations to rebuild and sustain our local com-  
21       munities; and

22          (6) encourages Members of Congress, their  
23       families, and their staffs to participate in home re-

- 1 habilitation activities of Rebuilding Together in their
- 2 own States and Congressional Districts.

