

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 86

Supporting the goals and ideals of the Day of Silence.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2003

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. LEE, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of the Day of Silence.

Whereas the Day of Silence is a day on which students take a vow to remain silent for a full day in order bring attention to the harassment and discrimination faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in schools, including students, teachers, and other school staff;

Whereas the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, in partnership with the United States Student Association, has designated April 9, 2003, as the Day of Silence;

Whereas more than 150,000 students at more than 1,700 kindergarten through 12th grade schools participated in the 2002 Day of Silence;

Whereas the 2001 Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network National School Climate Survey illustrates the pervasive harassment and victimization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students;

Whereas more than 80 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students have been verbally harassed by their peers because of their sexual orientation and gender identity;

Whereas more than 40 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students have been physically assaulted by their peers because of their sexual orientation and gender identity;

Whereas more than 80 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students report that faculty and staff rarely or never intervene when harassment against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals occurs;

Whereas more than 30 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students report missing at least one entire school day in the last month because they feel unsafe;

Whereas unchecked harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression can hinder student achievement and have a negative impact on student academic performance;

Whereas 42 States do not have laws protecting lesbian, gay, and bisexual students from discrimination or harassment that occurs at school;

Whereas 47 States do not have laws protecting transgender students from discrimination or harassment that occurs at school; and

Whereas every child, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, should be guaranteed an education free from discrimination and harassment: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) supports the goals and ideals of the Day of
 4 Silence;

5 (2) requests that the President issue a procla-
 6 mation calling on the people of the United States to
 7 observe the Day of Silence with appropriate cere-
 8 monies, programs, and activities;

9 (3) encourages each city and State to adopt
 10 laws to prohibit discrimination and harassment
 11 against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender stu-
 12 dents, teachers, and other school staff; and

13 (4) encourages each school district in the
 14 United States to adopt policies to prohibit discrimi-
 15 nation and harassment against lesbian, gay, bisex-
 16 ual, and transgender students, teachers, and other
 17 school staff.

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