

H. Res. 66

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

June 14, 2004.

Whereas 40 percent of children who live in fatherless households in the United States have not seen their fathers in at least 1 year, and 50 percent of such children have never visited their fathers' homes;

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

Whereas 3 out of 4 adolescents in the United States report that they do not have adults in their lives that serve as positive role models;

Whereas children who are apart from their biological fathers are, in comparison to other children, 5 times more likely to live in poverty, and more likely to bring weapons and drugs into the classroom, commit other crimes, drop out of school, commit suicide, abuse alcohol or drugs, or become pregnant as teenagers;

Whereas the Federal Government spends billions of dollars to address these social ills and very little to promote responsible fatherhood;

Whereas children with fathers at home tend to do better in school, to be less prone to depression, and to have more successful relationships;

Whereas boys and girls alike demonstrate greater self-control and ability to take initiative when fathers are actively involved in their upbringing;

Whereas promoting responsible fatherhood can help increase the chances that children will grow up with two caring parents;

Whereas the promotion of responsible fatherhood should not denigrate the standing or parenting efforts of single mothers, whose efforts are heroic, lessen the protection of children from abusive parents, cause women to remain in, or enter into, abusive relationships, or compromise the health or safety of a custodial parent;

Whereas a broad array of the Nation's leading family and child development experts agree that it is in the best interests of children and the Nation as a whole to encourage more two-parent families where the father is actively involved with his children;

Whereas in a study of fathers' interaction with their children in intact two-parent families, nearly 90 percent of the fathers surveyed said that being a father is the most fulfilling role a man can have;

Whereas according to a 1996 Gallup poll, 90.3 percent of Americans agree that fathers make a unique contribution to their children's lives;

Whereas married fathers are more likely to have a close, enduring relationship with their children than unmarried fathers; and

Whereas Father's Day is the third Sunday in June: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

- (1) urges men to understand the level of responsibility fathering a child requires, especially in the encouragement of the moral, academic, and spiritual development of children;
- (2) encourages active involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children, including the devotion of time, energy, and resources to his children, recognizing that children need not only material support, but even more importantly, a secure and nurturing family environment;
- (3) urges mothers to encourage fathers to play an active role in child-rearing;
- (4) commends the millions of fathers who serve as wonderful, caring parents for their children;
- (5) calls on fathers across the Nation to use Father's Day to reconnect and rededicate themselves to their children's lives, to spend Father's Day with their children, and to express their love and support for their children; and

(6) urges institutions and government entities at every level to promote public policies that encourage and support, and remove barriers to, responsible fatherhood.

Attest:

Clerk.