

SENATE RESOLUTION 294—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2000 AS “CHILDREN’S INTERNET SAFETY MONTH”

Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 294

Whereas the Internet is one of the most effective tools available for purposes of education and research and gives children the means to make friends and freely communicate with peers and family anywhere in the world;

Whereas the new era of instant communication holds great promise for achieving better understanding of the world and providing the opportunity for creative inquiry;

Whereas it is vital to the well-being of children that the Internet offer an open and responsible environment to explore;

Whereas access to objectionable material, such as violent, obscene, or sexually explicit adult material may be received by a minor in unsolicited form;

Whereas there is a growing concern in all levels of society to protect children from objectionable material;

Whereas the technological option for parents or guardians to filter, block, or review objectionable Internet material is available and effective;

Whereas information on Internet filtering or blocking technology is unavailable to many parents or guardians; and

Whereas the Internet is a positive educational tool and should be seen in such a manner rather than as a vehicle for entities to make objectionable materials available to children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2000 as “Children’s Internet Safety Month” and supports its official status on the Nation’s promotional calendar; and

(2) supports parents and guardians in promoting the creative development of children by encouraging the use of the Internet in a safe, positive manner with the aid of Internet filtering and blocking technologies.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a resolution designating October 2000 as “Children’s Internet Safety Month” on our national promotional calendar. This resolution, which I am submitting along with my colleague, Senator MCCAIN, recognizes the valuable information and opportunities for creative development provided by the Internet. It supports parents and guardians as they work to promote children’s intellectual growth by encouraging safe, positive internet use with the aid of Internet filtering and blocking technologies.

Filtering and blocking technologies can help parents and guardians protect their children from objectionable material. This is particularly important in those frequent instances when such material is obtained by accident, via unsolicited correspondence. With more than 5,000 new web sites appearing on the Internet each day, we must recognize the problems raised by the significant number of sites containing objectionable material (defined as material that is violent, obscene or sexually explicit). Unfortunately, one-third of all Internet web sites are devoted to objectionable material. This presents our

nation with a moral challenge: to find the means to sustain the wonderful freedom of the Internet while protecting children from unwanted and potentially harmful Internet material.

By designating October 2000 as “Children’s Internet Safety Month” on the nation’s promotional calendar, we can help parents, guardians, and concerned community leaders in their efforts to provide responsible Internet protection for our children. We can focus public attention on this important issue and encourage development of positive, community based programs and events highlighting the need to protect children from objectionable Internet material.

This resolution will help empower the young people of the Internet Generation to share ideas and dreams; and to do so free from unwanted and intrusive, objectionable Internet material.

SENATE RESOLUTION 295—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE CARRYING OF FIREARMS INTO PLACES OF WORSHIP OR EDUCATIONAL AND SCHOLASTIC SETTINGS SHOULD BE PROHIBITED

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself Mr. DASCHLE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KOHL, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REED, Mr. BAYH, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. REID, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROBB, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 295

Whereas repeated incidents of senseless and horrific gun violence have led many Americans to conclude that neither they nor their children can feel completely secure anywhere at anytime anymore;

Whereas the epidemic of gun violence in our Nation has invaded schools, youth sporting events, places of worship, and other spaces that the American people once thought of as sanctuaries of safety;

Whereas these shootings have shattered the confidence of parents and educators and clergy in their ability to protect children from the increasingly dangerous world around them;

Whereas in response to this trend, Congress previously acted to protect America’s children by prohibiting the possession of firearms in school zones;

Whereas no American adult or child should have to fear for their safety when studying, praying in their places of worship, or participating in any other activities at or related to their schools or places of worship;

Whereas it is the obligation of America’s elected leaders to do all they can to protect our children from harm and ensure that adults and children alike can learn, play, or pray in safety; and

Whereas there is no rational reason for anyone other than a law enforcement officer to carry a gun into a place of worship, a school, or a school-related event: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the carrying of firearms into places of worship or educational and scholastic settings should be prohibited.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, the first anniversary of the Columbine massacre has been a time for great contemplation and reflection—contemplation of the horror and tragedy of that event, and reflection on what has become of the safety and security so many of us once took for granted. From Paducah, Kentucky, to Jonesboro, Arkansas, to Springfield, Oregon, to Mount Morris Township, Michigan, to Littleton, Colorado, the surreal has too often become mortally real. Senseless, horrific and seemingly random gun violence has invaded all corners of our nation. These incidents have shattered our collective sense of security. What’s worse, they have done so with respect to the very places where we and our children have the right to feel most secure: our schools and our places of worship.

There are many facets to this problem—a media culture that desensitizes our children to violence, a feeling of hopelessness that invades too many of our children and the often too easy accessibility of firearms. We must address all of these problems, and I hope we soon will start to do so by taking action on the long-stalled juvenile justice bill with its several sensible gun-safety provisions and its measures aimed at the culture of violence surrounding our children.

But there is one more thing we can do for ourselves and our children: restore a sense of sanctuary and safe haven to spaces where guns have no place. Ask parents, educators or congregants, and they’ll say every community is entitled to at least a few sites of sanctuary, where they can honor their families and their God without fearing for their safety or their lives. But the reality is that at least 22 states permit gun owners to carry concealed weapons into places of worship, and many allow them at school events off campus.

Why does anyone other than a law enforcement or security officer need to carry a firearm into these spaces? Why at this moment of such concern about gun violence do we want to add to it the potential for more terror and tragedy in what should be our safest places? Why after at least a dozen shootings in American churches and synagogues over the last five years do we want to invite another?

Making clear that guns have no place in what are supposed to be sanctuaries would put the law on the right side of reason. It would help diminish the odds that another Columbine is around the corner. And it would reassure the American people that it is possible for us to come together on common ground to fight this threat to our safety and security.

With these thoughts in mind, and with the Million Mom March against gun violence soon to occur in Washington, I am today joining a coalition

of more than 25 Members in submitting a resolution expressing our support for prohibitions on firearms in schools, scholastic settings, and places of worship. This resolution would make a clear statement that, like most Americans, we in the Senate believe that Saturday Night Specials do not belong in Sunday School classes or any other place where families are learning, playing or praying.

This in the end is not an ideological or constitutional issue, but a question of common sense. We can respect the rights of law-abiding gun owners while also acknowledging that bullets and Bibles don't mix. This is not a hard line to take. Nor should it be a hard line to draw, in order to provide safe havens for our families.

It is time for the Senate to go on record and say that there are certain places in our society that must be safe havens from even the threat of violence, spaces where we and our children can go to pray and play with the confidence that safety and security will follow. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 296—DESIGNATING THE FIRST SUNDAY IN JUNE OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR AS "NATIONAL CHILD'S DAY"

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BYRD, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOND, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KOHL, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. ENZI, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. MACK, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. REID, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LIBERMAN, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. WELLSTONE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 296

Whereas the first Sunday of June falls between Mother's Day and Father's Day;

Whereas each child is unique, a blessing, and holds a distinct place in the family unit;

Whereas the people of the United States should celebrate children as the most valuable asset of the United States;

Whereas the children represent the future, hope, and inspiration of the United States;

Whereas the children of the United States should be allowed to feel that their ideas and dreams will be respected because adults in the United States take time to listen;

Whereas many children of the United States face crises of grave proportions, especially as they enter adolescent years;

Whereas it is important for parents to spend time listening to their children on a daily basis;

Whereas modern societal and economic demands often pull the family apart;

Whereas, whenever practicable, it is important for both parents to be involved in their child's life;

Whereas encouragement should be given to families to set aside a special time for all

family members to engage together in family activities;

Whereas adults in the United States should have an opportunity to reminisce on their youth to recapture some of the fresh insight, innocence, and dreams that they may have lost through the years;

Whereas the designation of a day to commemorate the children of the United States will provide an opportunity to emphasize to children the importance of developing an ability to make the choices necessary to distance themselves from impropriety and to contribute to their communities;

Whereas the people of the United States should emphasize to children the importance of family life, education, and spiritual qualities;

Whereas because children are the responsibility of all people of the United States, everyone should celebrate children, whose questions, laughter, and dreams are important to the existence of the United States; and

Whereas the designation of a day to commemorate the children will emphasize to the people of the United States the importance of the role of the child within the family and society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first Sunday in June of each year as "National Child's Day"; and

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution that designates the first Sunday in June as National Child's Day.

Our children are our future. I believe that most of my colleagues would agree that our children are, indeed, this nation's most precious resource—a resource that should be cherished and protected.

Sadly, Mr. President, over five million of America's children go to bed hungry at night.

In the last ten years there has been a 60 percent increase in the number of children in or in need of foster care services.

Many children in America face crises of grave proportions, especially as they enter their adolescent years.

We must make a commitment to reverse these trends. We must take the initiative to make each child in this nation a child who is loved, cared for and appreciated for his or herself.

The establishment of a National Child's Day will give all of us the unique opportunity to focus on our children's needs and to recognize their accomplishments.

National Child's Day will encourage families to spend more quality time together and will highlight the special importance of the child in the family unit.

This simple, yet important, resolution will foster family togetherness and ensure that our children receive all of the love, support, and attention that they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to join me in establishing National Child's Day this year and for years to come.

AMENDMENT SUBMITTED

MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF ACT OF 2000

BAYH (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 3102

(Ordered to lie on the table)

Mr. BAYH (for himself and Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to the bill (H.R. 6) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the marriage penalty by providing that the income tax rate bracket amounts, and the amount of the standard deduction, for joint returns shall be twice the amounts applicable to unmarried individuals; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Targeted Marriage Tax Penalty Relief Act of 2000".

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) SECTION 15 NOT TO APPLY.—No amendment made by section 2 shall be treated as a change in a rate of tax for purposes of section 15 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 2. MARRIAGE CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 (relating to non-refundable personal credits) is amended by inserting after section 25A the following new section:

"SEC. 25B. MARRIAGE CREDIT.

"(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—In the case of a joint return under section 6013, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an amount equal to the lesser of the amount determined under subsection (b) or (c) for the taxable year.

"(b) AMOUNT UNDER SUBSECTION (b).—For purposes of subsection (a), the amount under this subsection for any taxable year with respect to a taxpayer is determined in accordance with the following table:

	Amount:
"Taxable year:	
2001	\$500
2002	\$900
2003	\$1,300
2004 and thereafter	\$1,700.

"(c) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (a), the amount determined under this subsection for any taxable year with respect to a taxpayer is equal to the excess (if any) of—

"(A) the joint tentative tax of such taxpayer for such year, over

"(B) the combined tentative tax of such taxpayer for such year.

"(2) JOINT TENTATIVE TAX.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(A)—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The joint tentative tax of a taxpayer for any taxable year is equal to the tax determined in accordance with the