

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 484

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the major television networks should revive their traditional “Family Hour” and voluntarily reserve the first hour of prime-time broadcasting for family-oriented programming.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 18, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. DORNAN, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. KIM, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. JACOBS, Mr. EHRLICH, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. WOLF, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HEINEMAN, Mr. WAMP, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. POSHARD, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. WILSON, Mr. DELAY, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. HOKE, Mr. FROST, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. HERGER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. PARKER, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. ARCHER, Mr. LAUGHLIN, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. MANZULLO, Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, Mr. CLEMENT, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. LONGLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the major television networks should revive their traditional “Family Hour” and voluntarily reserve the first hour of prime-time broadcasting for family-oriented programming.

Whereas the national broadcast television networks once adhered to a voluntary, self-enforced practice of setting aside the first hour of prime-time broadcasting for programming suitable for audiences of all ages, especially young children;

Whereas the national broadcast television networks have recently abandoned this practice and chosen to fill this hour with programs laden with sexually suggestive language and behavior and mature themes;

Whereas, according to the most recent Nielsen ratings, approximately 9,000,000 children between the ages of 2 and 11 watch television during an average minute of the first hour prime-time broadcasting;

Whereas the clear majority of American parents are concerned about the negative influence of television on younger viewers, who watch an average of 21 hours of television a week;

Whereas that concern was recently demonstrated again in a poll conducted by U.S. News and World Report which found that 73 percent of Americans believe that television contributes to the problem of teenage pregnancy, 83 percent believe that television contributes to casual sex, 90 percent believe that television contributes to teenagers having sex too soon, and 92 percent believe that television contributes to violence on our streets;

Whereas the House of Representatives is comprised of elected representatives who have a responsibility to give voice to the concerns of their constituents; and

Whereas the House of Representatives expresses public sentiment in this resolution, and does not attempt to establish by law or otherwise mandate or dictate any requirements regarding the content of television programming: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 representatives that the national broadcast television net-
3 works should renew their commitment to voluntarily re-
4 serving the first hour of prime-time broadcasting for pro-
5 gramming suitable for American family members of all
6 ages.

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