

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 23

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the need for a Surgeon General's report on media and violence.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 1999

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. CONRAD) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

JOINT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the need for a Surgeon General's report on media and violence.

Whereas the tragic killings at a high school in Colorado remind us that violence in America continues to occur at unacceptable levels for a civilized society;

Whereas the relationship of violent messages delivered through such popular media as television, radio, film, recordings, video games, advertising, the Internet, and other outlets of mass culture, to self-destructive or violent behavior by children or young adults towards themselves, such as suicide, or to violence directed at others, has been studied intensely both by segments of the media industry itself and by academic institutions;

Whereas the same media used to deliver messages which harm our children can also be used to deliver messages which promote positive behavior;

Whereas much of this research has occurred in the 17 years since the last major review and report of the literature was assembled by the National Institute on Mental Health published in 1982;

Whereas the Surgeon General of the United States last issued a comprehensive report on violence and the media in 1972; and

Whereas the number, pervasiveness, and sophistication of technological avenues for delivering messages through the media to young people has expanded rapidly since these 2 reports: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That—

4 (1) the Surgeon General, in cooperation with
 5 the National Institute of Mental Health, and such
 6 other sources of expertise as the Surgeon General
 7 deems appropriate, shall undertake a comprehensive
 8 review of published research, analysis, studies, and
 9 other sources of reliable information concerning the
 10 impact on the health and welfare of children and
 11 young adults of violent messages delivered through
 12 such popular media as television, radio, recordings,
 13 video games, advertising, the Internet, and other
 14 outlets of mass culture;

1 (2) the Surgeon General shall issue a report
2 based on this review which shall include, but not be
3 limited to, findings and recommendations concerning
4 what can be done to mitigate any harmful affects on
5 children and young adults from these messages, and
6 the identification of gaps in the research that should
7 be filled; and

8 (3) this review shall be completed in no more
9 than 1 year, and the report based on the review
10 shall be issued in no more than 6 months following
11 completion of the review.

○