

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 316

Expressing the sense of the Congress that government policy should seek to reduce the financial penalties against marriage within the welfare system, and should support married couples in forming and sustaining healthy, loving, and productive marriages.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2002

Mr. PITTS (for himself, Mr. AKIN, Mr. GOODE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BARR of Georgia, and Mr. NORWOOD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that government policy should seek to reduce the financial penalties against marriage within the welfare system, and should support married couples in forming and sustaining healthy, loving, and productive marriages.

Whereas both men and women who marry live longer, enjoy better health, and manage chronic illness better than otherwise similar people who are not married;

Whereas married people are significantly less likely to suffer from the problems of alcoholism and depression than non-married adults;

Whereas mothers who have married are almost half as likely to suffer from domestic violence as mothers who have never married, and married women are 4 to 5 times less likely to be victims of violent crime than single and divorced women;

Whereas marriage boosts the wealth and earnings of adults through known economic processes, including economies of scale, specialization, and risk pooling;

Whereas the institution of marriage strengthens the economy by increasing productivity, savings, and investment;

Whereas the erosion of marriage imposes substantial hardships on children, adults, and society at large;

Whereas roughly 1 child in 3 in the United States is born out of wedlock and nearly half of those born to married parents will experience the divorce of their parents before age 18;

Whereas a child born and raised by a single parent is 7 times more likely to live in poverty than a child born and raised by married parents;

Whereas a child born to and raised by married parents is 5 times less likely to be dependent on welfare than a child born and raised by a single parent;

Whereas children raised by married parents are less likely to suffer from behavior problems and emotional disturbances, are less likely to engage in disorderly conduct and juvenile delinquency, and are less likely to experience physical and sexual abuse, suicide, substance abuse, and teen pregnancy than children raised outside of marriage;

Whereas children whose parents never marry or get divorced are less likely to graduate from high school and as adults

are more likely to be unemployed and to experience economic hardship;

Whereas boys raised by single parents are almost twice as likely to have committed a crime and spend time in jail by the time they reach their early thirties; and

Whereas children whose parents never marry or get divorced are more likely to divorce or have children out of wedlock themselves, thereby transmitting the pattern of unstable marriages to future generations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that
 3 healthy marriages are highly important to the well-being
 4 of children, adults, and society in general, and that gov-
 5 ernment policy should seek to reduce the financial pen-
 6 alties against marriage within the welfare system, and
 7 should support couples who choose to marry and assist
 8 them in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to
 9 form and sustain healthy, loving, and productive mar-
 10 riages.

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