

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 392

To protect private decisions about marriage.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2002

Mr. STARK submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To protect private decisions about marriage.

Whereas the decision to get married is a private decision between two adults in which no government interference is warranted;

Whereas 79 percent of Americans believe the government should not develop programs to encourage people to marry or remain married, according to a study by the Pew Research Center;

Whereas 66 percent of Americans who identify themselves as strongly religious believe the government should not develop programs to encourage people to marry or remain married, according to the same study by the Pew Research Center;

Whereas, according to a report by the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services, 25

percent of women said they have been raped or physically assaulted by their current or former spouse, cohabitating partner, or date, so encouraging and coercing them or their children back into these relationships may cause them mental and physical harm;

Whereas research shows that as many as 60 percent of women on welfare have suffered from domestic violence as adults, so encouraging or coercing them back into these relationships may cause them mental and physical harm;

Whereas the Congress should seek to promote safe and stable families as a part of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program reauthorization; and

Whereas no research exists to indicate that marriage promotion helps raise poor people out of poverty, while ample evidence indicates that better health care, child care, and job training services do help raise poor families out of poverty: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring),* That it is the sense of the Congress that gov-
 3 ernment not be used to influence, promote, or coerce indi-
 4 viduals' private decisions regarding marriage.

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