

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 106

Encouraging and promoting greater involvement of fathers in their children's lives and designating Father's Day 2001, as "National Responsible Father's Day".

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 6, 2001

Mr. BAYH (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Encouraging and promoting greater involvement of fathers in their children's lives and designating Father's Day 2001, as "National Responsible Father's Day".

Whereas 40 percent of children who live in fatherless households have not seen their fathers in at least 1 year, and 50 percent of the children have never visited their fathers' homes;

Whereas approximately 50 percent of all children born in the United States spend at least ½ of their childhood in families without father figures;

Whereas nearly 20 percent of children in grades 6 through 12 report that they have not had a meaningful conversation with even 1 parent in more than 1 month;

Whereas 3 out of 4 adolescents report that they do not have adults in their lives that model positive behaviors;

Whereas many of the leading experts on family and child development in the United States agree that it is in the best interest of both children and the United States to encourage more 2-parent, father-involved families;

Whereas it is important to promote responsible fatherhood and encourage loving and healthy relationships between parents and their children in order to increase the chance that children will have 2 caring parents to help them grow up healthy and secure and not to—

(1) denigrate the standing or parenting efforts of single mothers, whose efforts are heroic;

(2) lessen the protection of children from abusive parents;

(3) cause women to remain in or enter into abusive relationships; or

(4) compromise the health or safety of a custodial parent;

Whereas children who are apart from their biological fathers are, in comparison to other children—

(1) 5 times more likely to live in poverty;

(2) more likely to be abused; and

(3) more likely to—

(A) bring weapons and drugs into the classroom;

(B) commit crime;

(C) drop out of school;

(D) commit suicide;

(E) abuse alcohol or drugs; and

(F) become pregnant as teenagers;

Whereas the Federal Government spends billions of dollars to address these social ills and very little to address the causes of such social ills;

Whereas millions of single mothers in the United States are heroically struggling to raise their children in safe, loving environments;

Whereas millions of men do act responsibly and could serve as role models for absent fathers;

Whereas responsible fatherhood should always recognize and promote values of nonviolence;

Whereas child support is an important means by which a parent can take financial responsibility for a child, and emotional support is an important means by which a parent can take social responsibility for a child;

Whereas children learn by example, and community programs that help mold young men into positive role models for their children need to be encouraged; and

Whereas Congress has begun to take notice of this issue with legislation introduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate to address the epidemic of absent fathers: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates Father’s Day 2001, as “National

3 Responsible Father’s Day”;

1 (2) recognizes the need to encourage active in-
2 volvement of fathers in the rearing and development
3 of their children;

4 (3) recognizes that while there are millions of
5 fathers who serve as a wonderful caring parent for
6 their children, there are children on Father’s Day
7 who will have no one to celebrate with;

8 (4) urges fathers to participate in their chil-
9 dren’s lives, both financially and emotionally;

10 (5) encourages fathers to devote time, energy,
11 and resources to their children;

12 (6) urges fathers to understand the level of re-
13 sponsibility required when fathering a child and to
14 fulfill that responsibility;

15 (7) is committed to assisting absent fathers to
16 become more responsible and engaged in their chil-
17 dren’s lives;

18 (8) calls upon fathers around the country to use
19 the day to reconnect and rededicate themselves to
20 their children’s lives, to spend “National Responsible
21 Father’s Day” with their children, and to express
22 their love and support for their children; and

23 (9) requests that the President issue a procla-
24 mation calling upon the people of the United States

- 1 to observe “National Responsible Father’s Day”
- 2 with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

