

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 107

To designate the first Monday in October of each year as “Child Health Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 1 (legislative day, JUNE 30), 1993

Mr. BINGAMAN introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

To designate the first Monday in October of each year as “Child Health Day”.

Whereas the health of the children of the United States is vital to the political, social, and economic future of the Nation;

Whereas although most American children are born and remain healthy, too many are vulnerable to problems that lead to serious illness, disability, and even death;

Whereas the United States ranks 24th among industrialized countries in the number of babies who die in their first year;

Whereas every 47 seconds, an American child is abused or neglected;

Whereas every 36 minutes, an American child is killed or injured by guns;

Whereas American one-year-olds have lower immunization rates against polio than one-year-olds in 14 other countries;

Whereas America and South Africa are the only industrialized nations that fail to provide universal health coverage and child care;

Whereas America invests a smaller portion of its gross national product on the health of its children than 18 other industrialized countries;

Whereas the problems that threaten many American children and their families threaten all of society and cause undue personal pain and suffering, lead to lost productivity, create a community-wide sense of resignation, and forecast a Nation that is less safe, less caring, and less free;

Whereas every sector of society benefits from caring, competent, literate, and most important, healthy children who are capable of achieving their full potential;

Whereas the cost today of investing in children and families is little when compared to what the cost will be tomorrow if inaction continues to guide our policies; and

Whereas the Federal Government should play a significant role in launching and sustaining a national effort to promote the health and well-being of our Nation's children:
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 the first Monday in October of each year is des-

4 igned "Child Health Day". The President is authorized

1 and requested to seek the cooperation of the appropriate
2 agencies of the United States, the governors of the States,
3 and all organizations interested in promoting the welfare
4 and health of children, to engage in a series of programs
5 and events to focus public attention on this vital national
6 issue.

○