

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

## **S. J. RES. 188**

---

### **JOINT RESOLUTION**

To designate 1995 the “Year of the Girl Child”.

**JOINT RESOLUTION**

To designate 1995 the “Year of the Girl Child”.

Whereas girls are the most neglected, deprived, and mistreated resource in the world;

Whereas girls throughout the world are frequently condemned to a cycle of poverty, illiteracy, unwanted pregnancy, and poor health;

Whereas it is not uncommon for girls in certain regions of the world to become pregnant at the onset of puberty, and to continue to become pregnant thereafter, damaging their health and increasing the chances that they will suffer complications during pregnancy;

Whereas girls in developing countries are fed less, withdrawn from school earlier, forced into hard labor sooner, and given less medical care than boys in those same countries;

Whereas numerous studies indicate that girls are disadvantaged by the perception that they are temporary members of a family, and by the belief that boys will become the main financial source for the family and, therefore, are more deserving of scarce family resources;

Whereas parents of girls in some regions of the developing world frequently choose to resort to infanticide, rather than drain family resources to raise girls;

Whereas girls in the United States and in other countries are exploited and victimized by sexual abuse and child prostitution;

Whereas the most recent study of child sexual abuse in the United States shows that, of the cases reported, 23 percent of the victims were males and 77 percent were females;

Whereas, by any measure, including test scores, curriculum, or teacher-student interaction, girls in the United States receive an unequal education;

Whereas studies indicate that in developing countries where girls have as little as 4 to 6 years of formal education there is a 20 percent decline in infant deaths;

Whereas girls with at least a seventh grade education have half as many pregnancies as girls with less education;

Whereas the World Health Organization estimates that improved education for girls, and improved family planning services for women, would reduce maternal deaths by 15 to 33 percent; and

Whereas the World Fertility Survey indicates that the age of a female at marriage increases with the number of years she has spent in school, and that with as little as 7 years of education, a female is more likely to marry at 22 than at 17: 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 1995 is designated the “Year of the Girl Child”. The

1 President is authorized and requested to direct all diplo-  
2 matic personnel of the United States, and the Secretaries  
3 of Education and Health and Human Services, to encour-  
4 age at every appropriate opportunity—

5           (1) the opening of educational opportunities to  
6       girls;

7           (2) gender equality in health care; and

8           (3) gender equality in all phases of family and  
9       community life.

Passed the Senate October 6 (legislative day, Sep-  
tember 12), 1994.

Attest:

*Secretary.*