

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 541

To express the sense of the House of Representatives concerning violence  
on television.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 1996

Mr. CASTLE (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. WICKER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. McKEON, Mr. HEINEMAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the House of Representatives  
concerning violence on television.

1       *Resolved,*

2       **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

3       The House of Representatives finds as follows:

4               (1) Children are exposed to significant amounts  
5       of violence on television:

6               (A) The average American child spends 28  
7       hours per week watching television.

8               (B) The American Psychological Associa-  
9       tion found that the average child views up to

1 8,000 made-for-TV murders and 100,000 acts  
2 of violence by the end of grade school.

3 (C) The Center for Media and Public Af-  
4 fairs found a 41 percent increase in television  
5 violence between 1992 and 1994.

6 (D) The recent 1994–1995 National Tele-  
7 vision Violence Study completed by Mediascope  
8 found that among programs that contain vio-  
9 lence, only 15 percent are preceded with an ad-  
10 visory or any sort of content code, 73 percent  
11 of perpetrators go unpunished in violent scenes,  
12 and 1 out of 4 violent interactions on television  
13 involve the use of a handgun.

14 (E) Since 1955, television characters have  
15 been murdered at a rate 1,000 times higher  
16 than real-world victims.

17 (2) Viewing violence harms children:

18 (A) Three national studies—the Surgeon  
19 General’s Commission report (1972), the Na-  
20 tional Institute of Mental Health 10-year fol-  
21 lowup (1982), and the report of the American  
22 Psychological Association’s Committee on  
23 Media in Society (1992)—reviewed hundreds of  
24 studies to arrive at the irrefutable conclusion

1           that when children view violence their behavior  
2           becomes increasingly violent.

3           (B) Studies have found that children ex-  
4           posed to substantial media violence can experi-  
5           ence other ill effects including desensitization  
6           and apathy toward violence, distrust of others,  
7           and an exaggerated sense of fear and paranoia  
8           of being a victim of violence.

9           (3) Even the most vigilant and concerned par-  
10          ents will not be able to monitor their children's tele-  
11          vision viewing habits at all times.

12          (4) The commitment of broadcasters is nec-  
13          essary to address the level of violence viewed by chil-  
14          dren and its harmful effect on them.

15 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

16          It is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

17          (1) national broadcast television networks  
18          should not air violent video programming between  
19          the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., the hours when  
20          children are reasonably likely to comprise a substan-  
21          tial portion of the audience; and

22          (2) legitimate news programs, documentaries,  
23          educational programs, and sporting events should

- 1 not contain violence in excess of what is needed to
- 2 convey the information intended during these hours.

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