

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 290

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the major broadcast television networks should revive their traditional “Family Hour” and voluntarily reserve the first hour of prime time broadcasting for family-oriented programming.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 12, 1996

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. NUNN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. COATS, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. BYRD, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the major broadcast television networks should revive their traditional “Family Hour” and voluntarily reserve the first hour of prime time broadcasting for family-oriented programming.

Whereas the major broadcast television networks once adhered to a voluntary, self-enforced practice of setting aside the first hour of prime time for programming suitable for audiences of all ages, especially young children;

Whereas the major networks have recently abandoned this practice and chosen to fill this hour with programs laden with sexually suggestive language and behavior and mature themes;

Whereas, according to the most recent Nielsen ratings, approximately 9,000,000 children between the ages of 2 and 11 watch television during an average minute between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. e.s.t;

Whereas the clear majority of American parents are concerned about the negative influence of television on younger viewers, who watch on average 21 hours of television a week;

Whereas that concern was recently demonstrated again in a poll conducted by U.S. News & World Report which found that 76 percent of Americans believe that television contributes to the problem of teenage pregnancy, 83 percent believe that television contributes to casual sex, 90 percent believe that television contributes to teenagers having sex too soon, and 92 percent believe that television contributes to violence on our streets;

Whereas the Senate is comprised of elected representatives who have a responsibility to give voice to the concerns of their constituents; and

Whereas the Senate expresses public sentiment in this resolution, and does not attempt to establish by law or otherwise mandate or dictate any requirements regarding the content of television programming: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the
 2 major broadcast television networks should renew their
 3 commitment to voluntarily reserving the first hour of
 4 prime time for programming suitable for members of
 5 American families of all ages.

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