

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 325

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need to more appropriately address the health and well-being of Hispanic adolescent girls and endorsing the findings and recommendations of the National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations (COSSMHO) now known as the National Alliance for Hispanic Health.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. HILL of Indiana, Mr. LARSON, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Ms. BERKLEY, MS. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MOORE, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BACA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. REYES, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Ms. CARSON, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. WATERS, Mr. HORN, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. BONO, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. DREIER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need to more appropriately address the health and well-being of Hispanic adolescent girls and endorsing the findings and recommendations of the National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations (COSSMHO) now known as the National Alliance for Hispanic Health.

Whereas Hispanic adolescent girls (Latinas) now represent the largest minority group of girls in the country and are expected to remain so for the next fifty years;

Whereas the four most serious threats to the health and education of American girls today are depression, substance abuse, pregnancy, and delinquency;

Whereas recent data from the “State of Hispanic Girls” by the National Alliance for Hispanic Health indicate that these four threats are more prevalent among Hispanic girls than their non-Hispanic counterparts;

Whereas the report also shows that a significant minority of Hispanic girls also lead girls nationwide in rates of suicide attempts, teenage pregnancy, alcohol and drug abuse and self-reported gun possession;

Whereas much more can be done by community based organizations in tandem with the local school system, law enforcement, social service agencies, including mental health clinics, to address these issues and provide the support needed by Hispanic adolescent girls and their families to reverse these trends;

Whereas many of these girls are adversely affected by cultural expectations, the pressures of acculturation and the lack of self-esteem and are unable to find appropriate support services by trained bilingual, bicultural professionals to deal with the identified major threats to their health and well-being;

Whereas data also indicate that Hispanic girls have higher dropout rates than any other racial or ethnic group of girls, in part due to their high rate of teen pregnancy;

Whereas the report also notes another alarming finding: that fewer prevention and treatment services reach these girls than reach girls in any other racial or ethnic group; and

Whereas the Congress is the appropriate governmental institution to develop a national agenda in tandem with the states to address these concerns and provide both the funds and leadership necessary to implement innovative and constructive programs to address the crisis for Hispanic adolescent girls and allow these girls to become self-confident, successful women and contributing members of society: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3            (1) the recommendations contained in the re-  
4        port “The State of Hispanic Girls” be endorsed and  
5        implemented to address the crisis facing Hispanic  
6        adolescent girls as it relates to their physical and  
7        mental health needs;

8            (2) more resources be provided through Federal  
9        grants and other mechanisms to community-based  
10       partnerships and innovative programs designed to  
11       promote the health and well-being of Hispanic ado-  
12       lescent girls at risk;

13           (3) programs and services addressing the needs  
14       of Hispanic adolescent girls be given in a way that  
15       is culturally, linguistically and developmentally ap-  
16       propriate;

1           (4) the Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
2           Services Administration (SAMHSA), the National  
3           Alliance for Hispanic Health and other public and  
4           private entities that have worked diligently and coop-  
5           eratively to address the needs of Hispanic adolescent  
6           girls be commended for their efforts and leadership  
7           and encouraged to continue so that more of these  
8           girls reach their true potential;

9           (5) Federal, State and local agencies in ad-  
10          dressing the needs of Hispanic adolescent girls be  
11          encouraged to form innovative partnerships with  
12          community based organizations, schools and law en-  
13          forcement to help ensure that resources are allocated  
14          in a way to ensure their most efficient and effective  
15          use in the community; and

16          (6) in providing services to adolescent girls at  
17          risk, family involvement and support must be consid-  
18          ered fundamental.

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