

H. Res. 118

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

March 23, 1999.

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly has decided to convene a special session from June 30 to July 2, 1999, in order to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

Whereas chapter II of the Programme of Action, which sets forth the principles of that document, begins: “The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action is the sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights.”;

Whereas section 7.12 of the Programme of Action states: “The principle of informed [consent] is essential to the long-term success of family-planning programmes. Any form of coercion has no part to play.”;

Whereas section 7.12 of the Programme of Action further states: “Government goals for family planning should be defined in terms of unmet needs for information and services. Demographic goals * * * should not be imposed

on family-planning providers in the form of targets or quotas for the recruitment of clients.”; and

Whereas section 7.17 of the Programme of Action states: “[g]overnments should secure conformity to human rights and to ethical and professional standards in the delivery of family planning and related reproductive health services aimed at ensuring responsible, voluntary and informed consent and also regarding service provision”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) no bilateral or multilateral assistance or benefit to any country should be conditioned upon or linked to that country’s adoption or failure to adopt population programs, or to the relinquishment of that country’s sovereign right to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development consistent with its own national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights;

(2)(A) family planning service providers or referral agents should not implement or be subject to quotas, or other numerical targets, of total number of births, number of family planning acceptors, or acceptors of a particular method of family planning;

(B) subparagraph (A) should not be construed to preclude the use of quantitative estimates or indicators for budgeting and planning purposes;

(3) no family planning project should include payment of incentives, bribes, gratuities, or financial reward to any person in exchange for becoming a family planning acceptor or to program personnel for achieving a numerical target or quota of total number of births, number of family planning acceptors, or acceptors of a particular method of family planning;

(4) no project should deny any right or benefit, including the right of access to participate in any program of general welfare or the right of access to health care, as a consequence of any person's decision not to accept family planning services;

(5) every family planning project should provide family planning acceptors with comprehensible information on the health benefits and risks of the method chosen, including those conditions that might render the use of the method inadvisable and those adverse side effects known to be consequent to the use of the method;

(6) every family planning project should ensure that experimental contraceptive drugs and devices and medical procedures are provided only in the context of a sci-

entific study in which participants are advised of potential risks and benefits; and

(7) the United States should reaffirm the principles described in paragraphs (1) through (6) in the special session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held between June 30 and July 2, 1999, and in all preparatory meetings for the special session.

Attest:

Clerk.