

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 118

Reaffirming the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development with respect to the sovereign rights of countries and the right of voluntary and informed consent in family planning programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 1999

Mr. TIAHRT (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. HYDE, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. HILL of Montana, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. BUYER, Mr. METCALF, Mr. KING, Mr. DELAY, Mr. FORBES, Mr. PITTS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. GARY MILLER of California, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, and Mr. ENGLISH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development with respect to the sovereign rights of countries and the right of voluntary and informed consent in family planning programs.

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

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) no bilateral or multilateral assistance or
4 benefit to any country should be conditioned upon or
5 linked to that country’s adoption or failure to adopt

1 population programs, or to the relinquishment of
2 that country's sovereign right to implement the Pro-
3 gramme of Action of the International Conference
4 on Population and Development consistent with its
5 own national laws and development priorities, with
6 full respect for the various religious and ethical val-
7 ues and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in
8 conformity with universally recognized international
9 human rights;

10 (2)(A) family planning service providers or re-
11 ferral agents should not implement or be subject to
12 quotas, or other numerical targets, of total number
13 of births, number of family planning acceptors, or
14 acceptors of a particular method of family planning;

15 (B) subparagraph (A) should not be construed
16 to preclude the use of quantitative estimates or indi-
17 cators for budgeting and planning purposes;

18 (3) no family planning project should include
19 payment of incentives, bribes, gratuities, or financial
20 reward to any person in exchange for becoming a
21 family planning acceptor or to program personnel
22 for achieving a numerical target or quota of total
23 number of births, number of family planning accep-
24 tors, or acceptors of a particular method of family
25 planning;

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

6 (5) every family planning project should provide
7 family planning acceptors with comprehensible infor-
8 mation on the health benefits and risks of the meth-
9 od chosen, including those conditions that might
10 render the use of the method inadvisable and those
11 adverse side effects known to be consequent to the
12 use of the method;

13 (6) every family planning project should ensure
14 that experimental contraceptive drugs and devices
15 and medical procedures are provided only in the con-
16 text of a scientific study in which participants are
17 advised of potential risks and benefits; and

18 (7) the United States should reaffirm the prin-
19 ciples described in paragraphs (1) through (6) in the
20 special session of the United Nations General As-
21 sembly to be held between June 30 and July 2,
22 1999, and in all preparatory meetings for the special
23 session.

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