

## **H. Res. 280**

### ***In the House of Representatives, U.S.,***

*June 12, 2000.*

Whereas one of every two marriages ends in divorce;

Whereas children living with a single mother are six times more likely to live in poverty than are children whose parents are married;

Whereas married adults, on average, live longer, have fewer emotional problems, and are less likely to engage in alcohol or drug abuse;

Whereas visionary communities have adopted community marriage policies to empower couples for healthy, lifelong marriage and to foster an environment that has the greatest likelihood of ensuring the well-being of our citizens, especially our children;

Whereas a community marriage policy is a set of guidelines for premarital preparation and community support for marriage to which individuals, the community, clergy, and congregations voluntarily commit; and

Whereas a successful community marriage policy is one that urges clergy, congregations, and the broader community to—

- (1) encourage premarital preparation education;
- (2) train mature married couples to serve as mentors to the newly married;

(3) evaluate current practices that may unwittingly undermine marriage formation and stability;

(4) implement policies that promote marriage; and

(5) volunteer time, expertise, and resources to support initiatives that promote marriage and stable families: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of strong marriages for a strong society;

(2) commends communities that have established community marriage policies for their efforts to support marriage and prevent the problems of divorce; and

(3) encourages other communities in the United States to develop voluntary community marriage policies to enable community members, such as clergy, business leaders, public officials, and health professionals, to work together to strengthen marriages and provide stable environments for children.

Attest:

*Clerk.*