

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 280

Recognizing the importance of strong marriages and the contributions that community marriage policies have made to the strength of marriages throughout the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 1999

Mr. EHLERS (for himself, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. UPTON, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. VITTER, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. PORTER, Mr. LARGENT, Mrs. WILSON, and Mr. MANZULLO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of strong marriages and the contributions that community marriage policies have made to the strength of marriages throughout the United States.

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

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 one example of a successful community marriage policy is the Greater Grand Rapids Community Marriage Policy, which outlines a menu for a successful marriage, including not marrying too young, finishing school, choosing a mate with similar values, dating at least a year before marriage, completing a premarital course, waiting to cohabit until after marriage, emphasizing the positive, sharing the household duties, worshiping together, having fun together, and remembering that commitment is the foundation for successful marriage; and

Whereas community members can support a community marriage policy by volunteering their time, expertise, influence, and resources to support initiatives that promote marriage and stable families: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

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

3 (2) commends the Greater Grand Rapids community and other communities which have established community marriage policies for their efforts to support marriage and prevent the problems of divorce; and

4 (3) encourages other communities in the United States to develop community marriage policies to enable community members to work together to

1 strengthen marriages and provide stable environ-
2 ments for children.

3 SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives
4 shall transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the
5 President of the United States.

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