

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 521

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that in international negotiations, including United Nations conferences, the United States should defend fundamental human rights to family, conscience, and life.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2000

Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. PITTS, Mr. DELAY, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. COBURN, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. TERRY, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. HAYES, and Mr. ISTOOK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that in international negotiations, including United Nations conferences, the United States should defend fundamental human rights to family, conscience, and life.

Whereas, since 1985, there have been a series of conferences organized by the United Nations to address women's rights and health;

Whereas one of these United Nations conferences, Beijing + 5 occurred the week of June 5, 2000;

Whereas some international delegations, including the U.S. delegation, are promoting a new term "sexual rights",

which could apply not only to adults, but also to children as young as 10 years old;

Whereas this broad and vague language could promote the sexual abuse of children and deny parents' rights to protect their children;

Whereas this broad and vague phrase "sexual rights" could also promote the spread of prostitution worldwide;

Whereas, according to newspaper reports, the U.S. delegation to the Beijing + 5 conference is "leading efforts to avoid condemning prostitution as a 'form of abuse' of women";

Whereas, according to reports, in recent negotiations at the U.N. Convention on Transnational Organized Crime in Vienna, the administration has supported limiting international efforts to combat "forced prostitution";

Whereas the prostitution of women and children in any form and under any circumstances constitutes exploitation;

Whereas prostitution degrades women and children by treating them as commodities rather than human beings worthy of respect;

Whereas prostitution has detrimental effect on society as a whole including ruined lives and increased health care, law enforcement, and welfare costs;

Whereas prostitution contributes to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV;

Whereas the vast majority of women and children who are forced, enticed, or otherwise induced to consent to participate in prostitution come from the lowest socio-economic strata in society;

Whereas the United States delegation reportedly opposes language that calls the pornography industry an exploiter of women; and

Whereas, in article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Member States declared, “The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State”: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives urges  
2 the President of the United States to direct any present  
3 or future U.S. delegations to worldwide conferences to:

4           (1) adopt a negotiating policy that prostitution  
5 in any form or circumstance degrades human dignity  
6 and violates basic human rights;

7           (2) oppose broad and vague “sexual rights” lan-  
8 guage for adults and children;

9           (3) call upon the international community to  
10 end all forms of prostitution and aggressively pursue  
11 organizations and individuals exploiting women and  
12 children through prostitution; and

13           (4) defend the fundamental human rights to  
14 family, conscience, and life.

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