

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 124

To establish a special committee of the Senate to address the cultural crisis facing America.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 17, 1999

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. CRAIG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

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## RESOLUTION

To establish a special committee of the Senate to address the cultural crisis facing America.

1       *Resolved,*

2       **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.**

3           (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a special  
4 committee of the Senate to be known as the Special Com-  
5 mittee on Culture (hereafter in this resolution referred to  
6 as the “special committee”).

7           (b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the special committee  
8 is—

1           (1) to study the causes and reasons for the sub-  
2           stantial social and cultural regression;

3           (2) to make such findings of fact as are war-  
4           ranted and appropriate, including the impact that  
5           such negative cultural trends and developments have  
6           had on our broader society, particularly in regards  
7           to child well-being; and

8           (3) to explore a means of cultural renewal and  
9           make recommendations, including such recommenda-  
10          tions for new legislation and amendments to existing  
11          laws and any administrative or other actions, as the  
12          special committee may determine to be necessary or  
13          desirable.

14 No proposed legislation shall be referred to the special  
15 committee, and the committee shall not have power to re-  
16 port by bill, or otherwise have legislative jurisdiction.

17          (c) TREATMENT AS STANDING COMMITTEE.—For  
18 purposes of paragraphs 1, 2, 7(a) (1) and (2), and 10(a)  
19 of rule XXVI and rule XXVII of the Standing Rules of  
20 the Senate, and section 202 (i) and (j) of the Legislative  
21 Reorganization Act of 1946, the special committee shall  
22 be treated as a standing committee of the Senate.

23 **SEC. 2. MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SPECIAL**  
24 **COMMITTEE.**

25          (a) MEMBERSHIP.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The special committee shall  
2 consist of 7 members of the Senate—

3           (A) 4 of whom shall be appointed by the  
4 President pro tempore of the Senate from the  
5 majority party of the Senate upon the rec-  
6 ommendation of the Majority Leader of the  
7 Senate; and

8           (B) 3 of whom shall be appointed by the  
9 President pro tempore of the Senate from the  
10 minority party of the Senate upon the rec-  
11 ommendation of the Minority Leader of the  
12 Senate.

13           (2) VACANCIES.—Vacancies in the membership  
14 of the special committee shall not affect the author-  
15 ity of the remaining members to execute the func-  
16 tions of the special committee and shall be filled in  
17 the same manner as original appointments to it are  
18 made.

19           (3) SERVICE.—For the purpose of paragraph 4  
20 of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate,  
21 service of a Senator as a member, chairman, or vice  
22 chairman of the special committee shall not be taken  
23 into account.

24           (b) CHAIRMAN.—The chairman of the special com-  
25 mittee shall be selected by the Majority Leader of the Sen-

1 ate and the vice chairman of the special committee shall  
2 be selected by the Minority Leader of the Senate. The vice  
3 chairman shall discharge such responsibilities as the spe-  
4 cial committee or the chairman may assign.

5 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of this resolu-  
7 tion, the special committee is authorized, in its  
8 discretion—

9 (1) to make expenditures from the contingent  
10 fund of the Senate;

11 (2) to employ personnel;

12 (3) to hold hearings;

13 (4) to sit and act at any time or place during  
14 the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the  
15 Senate;

16 (5) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the at-  
17 tendance of witnesses and the production of cor-  
18 respondence, books, papers, and documents;

19 (6) to take depositions and other testimony;

20 (7) to procure the services of individual con-  
21 sultations or organizations thereof, in accordance  
22 with the provisions of section 202(i) of the Legisla-  
23 tive Reorganization Act of 1946; and

24 (8) with the prior consent of the Government  
25 department or agency concerned and the Committee

1 on Rules and Administration, to use on a non-  
2 reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any  
3 such department or agency.

4 (b) OATHS FOR WITNESSES.—The chairman of the  
5 special committee or any member thereof may administer  
6 oaths to witnesses.

7 (c) SUBPOENAS.—Subpoenas authorized by the spe-  
8 cial committee may be—

9 (1) issued over the signature of the chairman  
10 after consultation with the vice chairman, or any  
11 member of the special committee designated by the  
12 chairman after consultation with the vice chairman;  
13 and

14 (2) served by any person designated by the  
15 chairman or the member signing the subpoena.

16 (d) OTHER COMMITTEE STAFF.—The special com-  
17 mittee may use, with the prior consent of the chairman  
18 of any other Senate committee or the chairman of any  
19 subcommittee of any committee of the Senate and on a  
20 nonreimbursable basis, the facilities or services of any  
21 members of the staff of such other Senate committee  
22 whenever the special committee or its chairman, following  
23 consultation with the vice chairman, considers that such  
24 action is necessary or appropriate to enable the special

1 committee to make the investigation and study provided  
2 for in this resolution.

3 (e) USE OF OFFICE SPACE.—The staff of the special  
4 committee may be located in the personal office of a Mem-  
5 ber of the special committee.

6 **SEC. 4. REPORT AND TERMINATION.**

7 The special committee shall report its findings, to-  
8 gether with such recommendations as it deems advisable,  
9 to the Senate prior to December 31, 2000.

10 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the date this resolution is  
12 agreed to through December 31, 2000, the expenses of  
13 the special committee incurred under this resolution shall  
14 be paid out of the miscellaneous items account of the con-  
15 tingent fund of the Senate and shall not exceed \$250,000  
16 for the period beginning on the date of adoption of this  
17 resolution through March 1, 2000, and \$250,000 for the  
18 period of March 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000, of  
19 which amount not to exceed \$75,000 shall be available for  
20 each period for the procurement of the services of indi-  
21 vidual consultants, or organizations thereof, as authorized  
22 by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of  
23 1946 (2 U.S.C. 72a(i)).

24 (b) PAYMENT OF BENEFITS.—The retirement and  
25 health benefits of employees of the special committee shall

- 1 be paid out of the miscellaneous items account of the con-
- 2 tingent fund of the Senate.

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