

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 172

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

AUGUST 4, 1999

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CONRAD, 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 American Culture (hereafter in this resolution  
6 referred to as the “special committee”).

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

1 (1) to study the causes and reasons for social  
2 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 on the broader society, particularly in regards to  
7 child well-being; and

8 (3) to explore means of cultural renewal.

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

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

18 **SEC. 2. MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SPECIAL**  
19 **COMMITTEE.**

20 (a) MEMBERSHIP.—

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

23 (A) 4 of whom shall be appointed by the  
24 President pro tempore of the Senate from the  
25 majority party of the Senate upon the rec-

1           ommendation of the Majority Leader of the  
2           Senate; and

3           (B) 3 of whom shall be appointed by the  
4           President pro tempore of the Senate from the  
5           minority party of the Senate upon the rec-  
6           ommendation of the Minority Leader of the  
7           Senate.

8           (2) VACANCIES.—Vacancies in the membership  
9           of the special committee shall not affect the author-  
10          ity of the remaining members to execute the func-  
11          tions of the special committee and shall be filled in  
12          the same manner as original appointments to it are  
13          made.

14          (3) SERVICE.—For the purpose of paragraph 4  
15          of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate,  
16          service of a Senator as a member, chairman, or vice  
17          chairman of the special committee shall not be taken  
18          into account.

19          (b) CHAIRMAN.—The chairman of the special com-  
20          mittee shall be selected by the Majority Leader of the Sen-  
21          ate and the vice chairman of the special committee shall  
22          be selected by the Minority Leader of the Senate. The vice  
23          chairman shall discharge such responsibilities as the spe-  
24          cial committee or the chairman may assign.

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

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of this resolu-  
3 tion, the special committee is authorized, in its  
4 discretion—

5 (1) to make expenditures from the contingent  
6 fund of the Senate;

7 (2) to employ personnel;

8 (3) to hold hearings;

9 (4) to sit and act at any time or place during  
10 the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the  
11 Senate;

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

15 (6) to take depositions and other testimony;

16 (7) to procure the services of individual con-  
17 sultations or organizations thereof, in accordance  
18 with the provisions of section 202(i) of the Legisla-  
19 tive Reorganization Act of 1946; and

20 (8) with the prior consent of the Government  
21 department or agency concerned and the Committee  
22 on Rules and Administration, to use on a non-  
23 reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any  
24 such department or agency.

1 (b) OATHS FOR WITNESSES.—The chairman of the  
2 special committee or any member thereof may administer  
3 oaths to witnesses.

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

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

11 (2) served by any person designated by the  
12 chairman or the member signing the subpoena.

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

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

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

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

8 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the date this resolution is  
10 agreed to through December 31, 2000, the expenses of  
11 the special committee incurred under this resolution—

12 (1) shall be paid out of the miscellaneous items  
13 account of the contingent fund of the Senate;

14 (2) shall not exceed \$500,000, of which amount  
15 not to exceed \$150,000 shall be available for the  
16 procurement of the services of individual consult-  
17 ants, or organizations thereof, as authorized by sec-  
18 tion 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of  
19 1946 (2 U.S.C. 72a(i)); and

20 (3) shall include sums in addition to expenses  
21 described under paragraph (2), as may be necessary  
22 for agency contributions related to compensation of  
23 employees of the special committee.

24 (b) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—Payment of expenses  
25 of the special committee shall be disbursed upon vouchers

1 approved by the chairman, except that vouchers shall not  
2 be required for disbursements of salaries (and related  
3 agency contributions) paid at an annual rate.

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