

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 319

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the Senate should participate in and support activities to provide decent homes for the people of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 9, 2000

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. L. CHAFEE, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBB, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the Senate should participate in and support activities to provide decent homes for the people of the United States, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States promotes and encourages the creation and revitalization of sustainable and strong neighborhoods in partnership with States, cities, and local

communities and in conjunction with the independent and collective actions of private citizens and organizations;

Whereas establishing a housing infrastructure strengthens neighborhoods and local economies and nurtures the families who reside in them;

Whereas an integral element of a strong community is a sufficient supply of affordable housing;

Whereas affordable housing may be provided in traditional and nontraditional forms, including apartment buildings, transitional and temporary homes, condominiums, co-operatives, and single family homes;

Whereas for many families a home is not merely shelter, but also provides an opportunity for growth, prosperity, and security;

Whereas homeownership is a cornerstone of the national economy because it spurs the production and sale of goods and services, generates new jobs, encourages savings and investment, promotes economic and civic responsibility, and enhances the financial security of all people in the United States;

Whereas although the United States is the first nation in the world to make owning a home a reality for a vast majority of its families, $\frac{1}{3}$ of the families in the United States are not homeowners;

Whereas a disproportionate percentage of families in the United States that are not homeowners are low-income families;

Whereas the community building activities of neighborhood-based nonprofit organizations empower individuals to improve their lives and make communities safer and healthier for families;

Whereas one of the best known nonprofit housing organizations is Habitat for Humanity, which builds simple but adequate housing for less fortunate families and symbolizes the self-help approach to homeownership;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity is organized in all 50 States with 1544 local affiliates and its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporate status and locally elected completely voluntary board of directors;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity will build its 100,000th house worldwide in September 2000 and endeavors to complete another 100,000 homes during the next 5 years;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity provides opportunities for people from every segment of society to volunteer to help make the American dream a reality for families who otherwise would not own a home; and

Whereas the first week of June 2000 has been designated as “National Homeownership Week”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) everyone in the United States should have
3 a decent home in which to live;

4 (2) the Members of the Senate should demonstrate the importance of volunteerism;

5 (3) during the year between National Homeownership Week 2000 and National Homeownership
6 Week 2001, the Members of the Senate, Habitat for
7 Humanity, and contributing organizations, should
8 sponsor and construct 2 homes in the District of Co-
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1 lumbia each of which should be known as a “House
2 That the Senate Built”;

3 (4) each “House That the Senate Built” should
4 be constructed primarily by Members of the Senate,
5 their families and staffs, and the staffs of spon-
6 soring organizations working with local volunteers
7 involving and symbolizing the partnership of the
8 public, private, and nonprofit sectors of society;

9 (5) each “House That the Senate Built” should
10 be constructed with the participation of the family
11 that will own the home;

12 (6) in the future, the Members of the Senate
13 and their families and staff should participate in
14 similar house building activities in their own States
15 as part of National Homeownership Week; and

16 (7) these occasions should be used to emphasize
17 and focus on the importance of providing decent
18 homes for all of the people in the United States.

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