107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 183

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the establishment of a National Words Can Heal Day.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 16, 2001

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the establishment of a National Words Can Heal Day.

Whereas the Jerusalem Fund has launched the Words Can Heal Campaign on September 4, 2001, to reduce verbal violence and gossip and to promote the value and practice of ethical speech in order to improve our democracy, build mutual respect, honor, and dignity in our country;

Whereas words used unfairly, whether expressed through excessive anger, unfair criticism, public and private humiliation, bigoted comments, cruel jokes, or rumors and malicious gossip, can traumatize and damage many lives;

Whereas an unwillingness or inability of many parents to control what they say when angry causes the infliction of potentially damaging verbal abuse on children;

Whereas bigoted words are often used to dehumanize entire religious, racial, and ethnic groups, and can inflame hostility;

Whereas the spreading of negative and often unfair, untrue, or exaggerated comments or rumors about others often inflicts irrevocable damage on the victim of such rumors;

Whereas the Words Can Heal Campaign will raise awareness regarding the damage that can be caused by destructive language; and

Whereas the Senate supports the goals of the Words Can Heal Campaign: Now, therefore, be it

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

2   (1) the Senate supports the goals of the Words

3   Can Heal Campaign; and

4   (2) the President should issue a proclamation

5   calling on the people of the United States to support

6   the goals of such campaign with appropriate pro-

7   grams and activities.

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