

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 309

Designating the week beginning March 14, 2004, as “National Safe Place Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 2004

Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FITZGERALD, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KOHL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating the week beginning March 14, 2004, as
“National Safe Place Week”.

Whereas today’s youth are vital to the preservation of our country and will be the future bearers of the bright torch of democracy;

Whereas youth need a safe haven from various negative influences such as child abuse, substance abuse and crime, and they need to have resources readily available to assist them when faced with circumstances that compromise their safety;

Whereas the United States needs increased numbers of community volunteers acting as positive influences on the Nation’s youth;

Whereas the Safe Place Program is committed to protecting our Nation's most valuable asset, our youth, by offering short term "safe places" at neighborhood locations where trained volunteers are available to counsel and advise youth seeking assistance and guidance;

Whereas the Safe Place Program combines the efforts of the private sector and nonprofit organizations uniting to reach youth in the early stages of crisis;

Whereas the Safe Place Program provides a direct way to assist programs in meeting performance standards relative to outreach and community relations, as set forth in the Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act guidelines;

Whereas the Safe Place placard displayed at businesses within communities stands as a beacon of safety and refuge to at-risk youth;

Whereas more than 700 communities in 42 States and more than 14,000 locations have established Safe Place Programs;

Whereas more than 68,000 young people have gone to Safe Place locations to get help when faced with crisis situations;

Whereas through the efforts of Safe Place coordinators across the country each year more than one-half million students learn that Safe Place is a resource if abusive or neglectful situations exist; and

Whereas increased awareness of the program's existence will encourage communities to establish Safe Places for the Nation's youth throughout the country: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) proclaims the week of March 14 through
2 March 20, 2004, as “National Safe Place Week”;
3 and

4 (2) requests that the President issue a procla-
5 mation calling upon the people of the United States
6 and interested groups to promote awareness of and
7 volunteer involvement in the Safe Place Programs,
8 and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies
9 and activities.

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