

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 342

Designating April 30, 2004, as “Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 20, 2004

Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution;  
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Designating April 30, 2004, as “Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”, and for other purposes.

Whereas many nations throughout the world, and especially within the Western hemisphere, celebrate “Día de los Niños” on the 30th of April, in recognition and celebration of their country’s future—their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States;

Whereas children are the center of American families;

Whereas children should be nurtured and invested in to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the American spirit;

Whereas Hispanics in the United States, the youngest and fastest growing ethnic community in the Nation, continue

the tradition of honoring their children on this day, and wish to share this custom with the rest of the Nation;

Whereas 1 in 4 Americans is projected to be of Hispanic descent by the year 2050, and as of 2003, approximately 12,300,000 Hispanic children live in the United States;

Whereas traditional Hispanic family life centers largely on children;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and we rely on children to pass on these family values, morals, and culture to future generations;

Whereas more than 500,000 children drop out of school each year, and Hispanic dropout rates are unacceptably high;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education are most often communicated to children through family members;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and encourage children to explore, develop confidence, and pursue their dreams;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the United States will help affirm for the people of the United States the significance of family, education, and community;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for the children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their future, to articulate their dreams and aspirations, and to find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas the National Latino Children’s Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the country to declare April 30 as “Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”—a day to bring together Hispanics and other communities nationwide to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the children of a nation are the responsibility of all its people, and people should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society—their curiosity, laughter, faith, energy, spirit, hopes, and dreams: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) designates April 30, 2004, as “Día de los  
3       Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”; and

4               (2) requests that the President issue a procla-  
5       mation calling on the people of the United States to  
6       join with all children, families, organizations, com-  
7       munities, churches, cities, and States across the  
8       United States to observe the day with appropriate  
9       ceremonies, including—

10               (A) activities that center around children,  
11               and are free or minimal in cost so as to encour-  
12               age and facilitate the participation of all our  
13               people;

14               (B) activities that are positive and uplift-  
15               ing and that help children express their hopes  
16               and dreams;

1           (C) activities that provide opportunities for  
2 children of all backgrounds to learn about one  
3 another’s cultures and to share ideas;

4           (D) activities that include all members of  
5 the family, and especially extended and elderly  
6 family members, so as to promote greater com-  
7 munication among the generations within a  
8 family, enabling children to appreciate and ben-  
9 efit from the experiences and wisdom of their  
10 elderly family members;

11           (E) activities that provide opportunities for  
12 families within a community to get acquainted;  
13 and

14           (F) activities that provide children with the  
15 support they need to develop skills and con-  
16 fidence, and to find the inner strength—the will  
17 and fire of the human spirit—to make their  
18 dreams come true.

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