

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 70

Designating the week beginning March 16, 2003, as “National Safe Place Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 2003

Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating the week beginning March 16, 2003, 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 Safe Place combines the efforts of the private sector and non-profit organizations uniting to reach youth in the early stages of crisis;

Whereas Safe Place provides a direct means to assist programs in meeting performance standards relative to outreach/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 over 655 communities in 41 States and more than 11,000 locations have established Safe Place Programs;

Whereas over 61,000 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 16 through
2 March 23, 2003, 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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