

S. RES. 67

SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING PROTECTION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CLINICS.

Whereas, there are approximately 900 clinics in the United States providing reproductive health services;

Whereas, violence directed at persons seeking to provide reproductive health services continues to increase in the United States, as demonstrated by the recent shootings at two reproductive health clinics in Massachusetts and another health care clinic in Virginia;

Whereas, organizations monitoring clinic violence have recorded over 130 incidents of violence or harassment directed at reproductive health care clinics and their personnel in 1994 such as death threats, stalking, chemical attacks, bombings and arson;

Whereas, there has been one attempted murder in Florida and four individuals killed at reproductive health care clinics in Florida and Massachusetts in 1994;

Whereas, the Congress passed and the President signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act of 1994, a law establishing Federal criminal penalties and civil remedies for certain violent, threatening, obstructive and destructive conduct that is intended to injure, intimidate or interfere with persons seeking to obtain or provide reproductive health services;

Whereas, violence is not a mode of free speech and should not be condoned as a method of expressing an opinion; and

Whereas, the President has intructed the Attorney General to order—

“(A) the United States Attorneys to create task forces of Federal, State and local law enforcement officials and develop plans to address security for reproductive health care clinics located within their jurisdictions; and

“(B) the United States Marshals Service to ensure coordination between clinics and Federal, State and local law enforcement officials regarding potential threats of violence: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States Attorney General should fully enforce the law and protect persons seeking to provide or obtain, or assist in providing or obtaining, reproductive health services from violent attack.

(c) Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to prohibit any expressive conduct (including peaceful picketing or other peaceful demonstration) protected from legal prohibition by the first amendment to the constitution.

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S. RES. 68**IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.**

Whereas, the Congress should be concerned about shifting costs from Federal to State and local authorities and should be equally concerned about the growing tendency of States to shift costs to local governments;

Whereas, cost shifting from States to local governments has, in many instances, forced local governments to raise property taxes or curtail sometimes essential services; and

Whereas, increases in local property taxes and cuts in essential services threaten the ability of many citizens to attain and main-

tain the American dream of owning a home in a safe, secure community: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that

(1) the Federal Government should not shift certain costs to the State, and States should end the practice of shifting costs to local governments, which forces many local governments to increase property taxes;

(2) States should end the imposition, in the absence of full consideration by their legislatures, of State issued mandates on local governments without adequate State funding, in a manner that may displace other essential government priorities; and

(3) one primary objective of this Act and other efforts to change the relationship among Federal, State, and local governments should be to reduce taxes and spending at all levels and to end the practice of shifting costs from one level of government to another with little or no benefit to taxpayers.

RECESS UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1995 AT 9:30 A.M.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:35 p.m., recessed until Monday, January 23, 1995, at 9:30 a.m.