

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 102

Reaffirming the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development with respect to the sovereign rights of countries and the right of voluntary and informed consent in family planning programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 1999

Mr. TIAHRT (for himself, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. HILL of Montana, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. BUYER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development with respect to the sovereign rights of countries and the right of voluntary and informed consent in family planning programs.

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly has decided to convene a special session from June 30 to July 2, 1999, in order to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

Whereas chapter II of the Programme of Action, which sets forth the principles of that document, begins “[t]he im-

plementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action is the sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights”;

Whereas chapter VII of the Programme of Action states “[a]ny form of coercion has no part to play” in family planning programs; and

Whereas section 7.17 of the Programme of Action states “[g]overnments should secure conformity to human rights and to ethical and professional standards in the delivery of family planning and related reproductive health services aimed at ensuring responsible, voluntary, and informed consent and also regarding service provision”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) bilateral assistance, multilateral assistance,
4 or any other form of assistance or benefits to any
5 country should not be conditioned upon, or linked to,
6 that country’s adoption of population programs, tar-
7 gets, goals, or quotas, or to any other relinquish-
8 ment of the country’s sovereign right to implement
9 the Programme of Action of the International Con-
10 ference on Population and Development consistent
11 with its own national laws and development prior-
12 ities, with full respect for the various religious and

1 ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people,
2 and in conformity with universally recognized inter-
3 national human rights;

4 (2) family planning service providers or referral
5 agents should not implement, or be subject to, nu-
6 merical quotas, goals, or targets, of total number of
7 births, number of family planning acceptors, or ac-
8 ceptors of a particular method of family planning;

9 (3) a family planning project or program should
10 not include payment of incentives, bribes, gratuities,
11 or other material reward to any person in exchange
12 for becoming a family planning acceptor or to pro-
13 gram personnel for achieving a numerical target or
14 quota of total number of births, number of family
15 planning acceptors, or acceptors of a particular
16 method of family planning;

17 (4) a family planning project or program should
18 not deny any right or benefit, including the right of
19 access to food or health care, as a consequence of
20 any person's decision not to accept family planning
21 services;

22 (5) a family planning project or program should
23 provide family planning acceptors with full, com-
24 prehensible information on the health benefits and
25 risks of the method chosen, including those condi-

1 tions that might render the use of the method inad-
2 visable and those adverse side effects known to be
3 associated with the method;

4 (6) a family planning project or program should
5 ensure that experimental drugs and devices and
6 medical procedures are provided only in the context
7 of a scientific study in which participants are ad-
8 vised of the experimental nature of the drug, device,
9 or procedure and of the potential risks and benefits;

10 (7) a family planning project or program should
11 provide each individual approached to participate in
12 that project or program with full, comprehensible in-
13 formation about that individual's right to decide
14 freely, without coercion, bribery or withholding of
15 benefits, whether to participate in the project or pro-
16 gram;

17 (8) a health care provider or project or program
18 personnel should not be required to participate in
19 any method or program of family planning that vio-
20 lates the provider's or project or program person-
21 nel's rights of conscience or religion; and

22 (9) the United States should reaffirm the prin-
23 ciples described in paragraphs (1) through (8) in the
24 special session of the United Nations General As-
25 sembly to be held from June 30 to July 2, 1999,

- 1 and in all preparatory meetings for the special ses-
- 2 sion.

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