

Mr. President, I wish I did not have to introduce this resolution. I thank my colleagues for supporting it, but I think all the organizations that are working on this are doing extremely important work. It is hard to believe this happens to infants. It is hard to believe this happens to small children. I certainly cannot say on the floor of the Senate that agreeing to a resolution, ipso facto, ends this practice. But our agreeing to this resolution means a lot to people who have experienced this horror and to people who care deeply about this issue.

I thank colleagues.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 300) was agreed to. The preamble were agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 300

Whereas the month of April has been designated National Child Abuse Prevention Month, an annual tradition initiated by former President Jimmy Carter in 1979;

Whereas the most recent government figures show that over 1,000,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect in 1997, causing unspeakable pain and suffering to our most vulnerable citizens;

Whereas among the children who are victims of abuse and neglect, more than 3 children die each day in this country;

Whereas the rate of child fatalities has risen by 37 percent between 1985 and 1997, with children aged 3 and younger accounting for 77 percent of the fatalities;

Whereas head trauma is the leading cause of death of abused children, including the trauma known as Shaken Baby Syndrome;

Whereas Shaken Baby Syndrome, which results from a caregiver losing control and shaking a baby usually less than 1 year of age, and can cause loss of vision, brain damage, paralysis, seizures, or death, is a totally preventable form of child abuse;

Whereas an estimated 3,000 children are diagnosed with Shaken Baby Syndrome every year, with thousands more misdiagnosed and undetected;

Whereas Shaken Baby Syndrome often results in permanent, irreparable brain damage or death to an infant, and more than \$1,000,000 in medical costs in just the first few years of life to care for a single, disabled child;

Whereas the most effective solution to ending Shaken Baby Syndrome is to prevent such abuse, and it is clear that the minimal costs of educational and prevention programs may prevent the enormous medical and disability costs and untold grief for many families;

Whereas prevention programs have been shown to raise awareness and provide critically important information about Shaken Baby Syndrome to parents, caregivers, day-care workers, child protection employees, law enforcement personnel, health care professionals, and legal representatives;

Whereas prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome is supported by groups such as the Shaken Baby Alliance, an organization which began with 3 mothers of children who had been diagnosed with Shaken Baby Syn-

drome, and whose mission is to educate the general public and professionals about Shaken Baby Syndrome and to increase support for victims and victim families in the health care and criminal justice systems;

Whereas child abuse prevention programs and "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week" are supported by the Shaken Baby Alliance, Children's Defense Fund, American Academy of Pediatrics, Child Welfare League of America, Prevent Child Abuse America, Brain Injury Association, National Child Abuse Coalition, National Exchange Club Foundation, and many other organizations including the National Basketball Association which is sponsoring a series of "NBA Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Night 2000" events to generate public awareness about the issue of child abuse and neglect during National Child Abuse Prevention Month 2000;

Whereas a year 2000 survey by Prevent Child Abuse America shows that 1/2 of all Americans believe child abuse and neglect is the most important issue facing this country compared to other public health issues; and

Whereas Congress strongly supports efforts to protect children from abuse and neglect: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the week of April 23-30, 2000, as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week".

DESIGNATING "DIA DE LOS NINOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS"

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 90, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 90) designating the 30th day of April of 2000 as "Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and, finally, any statements there to be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 90) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 90

Whereas many of the nations throughout the world, and especially within the Western hemisphere, celebrate "Dia de los Ninos" 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 citizens 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 Latinos in the United States, the youngest and fastest growing ethnic commu-

nity 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 one in four Americans is projected to be of Hispanic descent by the year 2050, and there are now 10.5 million Latino children;

Whereas traditional Latino family life centers largely on its 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 Nation 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 of children of the United States will provide an opportunity to children to reflect on their future, to articulate their dreams and aspirations, and 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 "Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans"—a day to bring together Latinos and other communities nationwide to celebrate and uplift children; and

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

Resolved, That the Senate designates the 30th of April of 2000, as "Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans" and requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and states across the nation to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, beginning April 30, 2000, that include:

(1) activities that center around children, and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all our citizens;

(2) activities that are positive, uplifting, and that help children express their hopes and dreams;

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

(4) activities that include all members of the family, and especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within a family, enabling children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of their elderly family members;

(5) activities that provide opportunities for families within a community to get acquainted; and

(6) activities that provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence, and find the inner strength—the will and fire of the human spirit—to make their dreams come true.