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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that fatherhood is essential to the development of all children, and that the increased involvement of fathers in the home will lead to economic prosperity, educational excellence, and improved social mobility for children across all racial and ethnic groups.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. OWENS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that fatherhood is essential to the development of all children, and that the increased involvement of fathers in the home will lead to economic prosperity, educational excellence, and improved social mobility for children across all racial and ethnic groups.

Whereas fathers play an important role in providing nurture and support for children, enabling them to learn, develop, and reach their full potential;

Whereas fatherlessness and the lack of important role models in the lives of children today are a root cause of the violence and unrest we are witnessing in our Nation;

Whereas despite some successful legislation and the creation of fatherhood initiatives, fatherless homes are still prevalent;

Whereas research shows children do best when raised by two parents in a committed and long-term marriage;

Whereas according to the United States Census Bureau, 18,400,000 children in the United States live without a father in the home;

Whereas data supports the hypothesis that having strong male role models in the home helps prevent suicide, behavioral disorders, juvenile detention, substance abuse, aggression, violence, and teen pregnancy;

Whereas fathers play an important role in teaching important life skills, providing guidance through challenges, and helping children persevere through adversity; and

Whereas by promoting fatherhood with amended policies that incentivize two-parent households and increasing evidence-based practices, the number of fatherless homes will decrease across all communities: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) affirms the importance of fatherhood in car-
3 ing for, nurturing, and supporting children through-
4 out their lives;

1 (2) supports the efforts of public officials, com-
2 munity leaders, faith leaders, and all citizens to pro-
3 mote and encourage engaged fatherhood;

4 (3) recognizes the impact that fatherlessness
5 has had on American children, including in the
6 Black community, in creating obstacles for children
7 to learn, grow, develop, and live fulfilling and re-
8 warding lives;

9 (4) recognizes the impact the criminal justice
10 system and incarceration have had in creating sin-
11 gle-parent homes;

12 (5) recognizes misaligned incentives in the
13 structure of Federal welfare programs and the bar-
14 riers they create in allowing fathers to return home
15 to their spouse and children;

16 (6) supports programs and initiatives to provide
17 incarcerated individuals with the tools and skills to
18 seek meaningful employment opportunities upon re-
19 lease from detention;

20 (7) reaffirms support for efforts to encourage
21 educational opportunities and economic development
22 in minority communities, such as historically Black
23 colleges and universities, the First Step Act, and
24 Opportunity Zones;

1 (8) commits to researching and understanding
2 the root causes of fatherlessness, and crafting public
3 policy that supports and encourages fully engaged
4 fatherhood;

5 (9) should address the difficulties of child cus-
6 tody as it relates to alimony and child support;

7 (10) should explore tax incentives and programs
8 to incentivize American dads as foster parents and
9 in mentoring programs; and

10 (11) should develop a national promotional ef-
11 fort to incentivize fatherhood.