

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 224

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 15, 1998

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas many children in the United States have been abducted by family members who are foreign nationals and living in foreign countries;

Whereas children who have been abducted by an estranged father are very rarely returned, through legal remedies, from countries that only recognize the custody rights of the father;

Whereas there are at least 140 cases that need to be resolved in which children have been abducted by family members and taken to foreign countries;

Whereas, although the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, done at the Hague on October 25, 1980, has made progress in aiding the return of abducted children, the Convention does not address the criminal aspects of child abduction, and there is a need to reach agreements regarding child abduction with countries that are not parties to the Convention; and

Whereas decisions on awarding custody of children should be made in the children's best interest, and persons who violate laws of the United States by abducting their children should not be rewarded by being granted custody of those children: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That the Congress urges international co-
 3 operation in working to resolve those cases in which chil-
 4 dren in the United States are abducted by family members
 5 who are foreign nationals and taken to foreign countries,
 6 and in seeing that justice is served by holding accountable
 7 the abductors for violations of criminal law.

Passed the House of Representatives September 14,
 1998.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk.