

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 75

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that States should work more aggressively to attack the problem of violent crimes committed by repeat offenders and criminals serving abbreviated sentences.

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Whereas a disturbing number of law-abiding citizens believe they are prisoners in their own homes because of increasing violence in our society;

Whereas law-abiding citizens have the right to be fearful knowing that violent offenders only serve on average 48 percent of the sentence they received;

Whereas more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of persons under correctional supervision are currently on parole and not incarcerated;

Whereas 1 in 3 offenders admitted to State prisons were on probation or parole violators;

Whereas the Federal Government eliminated parole in 1984 and prisoners convicted of Federal crimes now serve at least 85 percent of their sentences;

Whereas under current Federal law, States are eligible for prison construction funds if they keep felons in prison for at least 85 percent of their sentence;

Whereas in 1996, at least 25 States, among them Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Washington, have laws that meet the 85 percent of sentence served requirements set forth in the 1994 crime bill; and

Whereas the National Association of Police Organizations, the International Chiefs of Police, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Chiefs of Police, the National District Attorney's Association, and the Safe Streets Coalition support the concept of an 85 percent minimum length of service for violent criminals: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—*

3 (1) Congress commends Arizona, California,
4 Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois,
5 Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mis-

1 Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, North
2 Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Caro-
3 lina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Washington for
4 their existing efforts with respect to prison time
5 served by criminal offenders;

6 (2) Congress encourages all remaining States to
7 adopt as quickly as possible legislation to increase
8 the time served by violent felons; and

9 (3) with respect to Federal crimes, Congress re-
10 emphasizes its support for the requirement that indi-
11 viduals who commit violent crimes should serve at
12 least 85 percent of their sentence.

Passed the House of Representatives July 29, 1997.

Attest:

Clerk.