

H. Res. 154

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

July 8, 1997.

Whereas the Nation's most valuable and vulnerable asset is its children;

Whereas their protection should be one of our highest priorities;

Whereas over 1,000,000 children are reported missing, and over 100,000 attempted nonfamily abductions take place every year;

Whereas over 750,000 children under the age of 18 disappear for some length of time every year;

Whereas law enforcement officials constantly encounter crimes against children;

Whereas sex offenders are nine times more likely to repeat their crimes than any other class of criminal;

Whereas nearly two-thirds of State prisoners serving time for rape and sexual assault victimized children; and

Whereas while many missing children are returned to their homes, many others are exposed to danger and exploitation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) all Members of Congress should take appropriate action to ensure the safety and protection of children in their jurisdictions;

(2) State governments should have in effect laws which register offenders convicted of sexual crimes against children and laws which require law enforcement to notify communities of the presence of these offenders;

(3) States should have in effect laws which severely punish individuals convicted of offenses against children, especially crimes involving abduction, sexual assault, exploitation, and stalking;

(4) law enforcement agencies should take the necessary steps to safeguard children against the dangers of abduction and exploitation; and

(5) State and local law enforcement agencies should work in close cooperation with Federal law enforcement to ensure a rapid and efficient response to reports of child abductions, especially in cases where a child's life may be in danger.

Attest:

Clerk.