

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 59

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the
prevention of shaken baby syndrome.

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Whereas more than 1,000,000 children were abused or neglected in the United States during the most recent year for which Government data is available regarding child abuse and neglect;

Whereas more than 3 children die from abuse or neglect each day in the United States;

Whereas, in 1998, 37.9 percent of all fatalities of children under the age of 1 were caused by child abuse or neglect, and 77.5 percent of all fatalities of children under the age of 5 were caused by child abuse or neglect;

Whereas head trauma, including the trauma known as shaken baby syndrome, is the leading cause of death of abused children;

Whereas shaken baby syndrome is the loss of vision, brain damage, paralysis, seizures, or death that is caused by severely or violently shaking a baby;

Whereas an estimated 3,000 babies, usually younger than 1 year of age, are diagnosed with shaken baby syndrome every year, with thousands more misdiagnosed or undetected;

Whereas shaken baby syndrome often results in permanent, irreparable brain damage or death;

Whereas the medical costs associated with caring for a baby suffering from shaken baby syndrome often exceed \$1,000,000 in the first few years of the life of the baby;

Whereas the most effective method for ending the occurrence of shaken baby syndrome is to prevent the abuse which causes it;

Whereas educational and prevention programs regarding shaken baby syndrome may prevent enormous medical costs and unquantifiable grief at minimal cost;

Whereas programs to prevent shaken baby syndrome 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 programs and techniques to prevent child abuse and shaken baby syndrome are supported by the Shaken Baby Alliance, Children's Defense Fund, National Children's Alliance, American Humane Association, Prevent Child Abuse America, National Exchange Club Foundation, Child Welfare League of America, National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, Center for Child Protection and Family Support, Inc., American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Medical Association; and

Whereas increased awareness of shaken baby syndrome and of the techniques to prevent it would help end the abuse that causes shaken baby syndrome: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) strongly supports efforts to protect children
 4 from abuse and neglect; and

5 (2) encourages the people of the United States
 6 to educate themselves regarding shaken baby syn-
 7 drome and the techniques to prevent it.

Passed the House of Representatives April 3, 2001.

Attest:

Clerk.