

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 37)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Establishment of a Commission on the Family

FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to establish a Commission on the family to study how the State government affects the family and to recommend how the State can better support and strengthen the family.

WHEREAS, The family is the foundation of society and the health and strength of a society may be measured by the health and strength of its families; and

WHEREAS, Families have been a source of societal strength in the past and represent society's hope for the future, and as such must be carefully nurtured; and

WHEREAS, The stability of the family is under unprecedented pressure that is reflected in the number of marriages ending in divorce; increasing numbers of teenage pregnancies; rising rates of teenage suicide, and child and spouse abuse; and other serious conditions that tear at the fabric of the family and society; and

WHEREAS, Fundamental societal changes have altered the definition of the traditional nuclear family necessitating an examination of emerging family structures including single parent families, second marriage families as well as adoptive and foster families; and

WHEREAS, A paramount concern of the State is the happiness, security, and general welfare of its children in day care facilities, schools, and the home, requiring that every effort be made to protect children from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse; and

WHEREAS, A shift in the traditional role of woman as homemaker has placed new emphasis on the care of children by professional care givers and teachers, and government must assure the adequacy of the training and certification process of day care workers, teachers, and other professionals; and

WHEREAS, Technological advances and improvements in health care have extended life spans, increasing the elderly population and decreasing infant mortality with attendant ramifications for the extended family; and

WHEREAS, Governmental policies and actions affect family life in a profound manner and governments should examine whether this impact advances or threatens family life and values; now, therefore, be it