

House Resolution 1042 (AM)

By: Representatives Byrd of the 170th, Walker of the 141st, Westmoreland of the 104th and Roberts of the 132nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing support for public policy that strengthens marriage and improves the self-
2 sufficiency of families; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in a mere generation, American society has moved from being a family and
4 marriage culture, to a divorce and cohabitation culture; and

5 WHEREAS, the family is an ancient social institution that is at least as worthy of protection
6 as our environment and its treasured resources; and

7 WHEREAS, high rates of divorce, unwed mothers, and absentee fathers are prevalent
8 conditions in our society that have profound negative consequences for children; and

9 WHEREAS, many couples enter into marriage without premarital counseling we, hereby,
10 encourage all couples to receive premarital counseling on the nature, purposes, and
11 responsibilities of marriage. A man and woman should understand marriage is for life and
12 if marital difficulties are experienced, then all reasonable efforts to preserve the marriage
13 should be taken, including marital counseling; and

14 WHEREAS, statistical evidence indicates that family breakdown creates substantial burdens
15 for its victims and for our communities which must bear the cost of increased taxes, crime,
16 compromised learning environments, heavy court dockets, and other social problems; and

17 WHEREAS, the path out of long-term poverty is often eased by the strength of marital
18 partnerships between adults who have successfully completed high school and found work
19 prior to parenthood; and federal welfare reform has embraced this approach in its programs.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21 the members of this body express their support for public policies that strengthen marriage
22 and families to the benefit of the state, its communities, and its children.