

House Resolution 140

By: Representative Brooks of the 63rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Declaring February 7-12, 2005, as "Hand in Hand with Children: Guiding and Protecting
2 Week"; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the problem of missing children is complex and multifaceted, falling into
4 several categories including family abductions; endangered runaways; nonfamily abductions;
5 and lost, injured, or otherwise missing children; and

6 WHEREAS, there are nearly 800,000 children reported missing each year, with an average
7 of over 2,100 reported missing to law enforcement agencies each day; and

8 WHEREAS, 58,200 children were victims of nonfamily abductions in a one-year period of
9 time; however, the percentage of minority children among missing children appears slightly
10 higher than their percentage in the United States population; and

11 WHEREAS, sex is the motivation for 69 percent of the offenses in which children are
12 abducted and murdered and when death is the outcome, 91 percent of the victims were slain
13 within 24 hours of the abduction. Furthermore, researchers have found that in 40 percent of
14 these cases, there are "unknowing witnesses" with information that may be crucial to the
15 resolution of the investigation; and the number of reported cases of child sexual exploitation
16 is on the rise; and

17 WHEREAS, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and the
18 Georgia Conference of Black Mayors (GCBM) formed a partnership to conduct a weeklong
19 demonstration project in the cities of Atlanta, Barnesville, Macon, Milledgeville, and
20 Savannah, entitled "Hand in Hand with Children: Guiding and Protecting," designed to
21 educate parents and children about ways to keep children safe, encourage communities to
22 take an active role in helping to protect children, and to teach children fun ways to remain
23 safe.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 this body agrees that the problems of missing and exploited children are grave concerns to
3 the state and the nation; and the consequences of these actions against children threaten the
4 foundation of our country's existence.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives hereby declares the week
6 of February 7-12, 2005, as "Hand in Hand with Children: Guiding and Protecting Week" and
7 supports national, state, and local efforts aimed at educating families and communities about
8 the perils of missing and exploited children, what protective measures families should take
9 to keep their children safe, and how to respond and seek help from law enforcement agencies
10 and social services when needed.