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Laid Over Under Rule 25

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY MASCHER

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2  
3 A House Resolution urging that the United States Senate  
4 ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

5 WHEREAS, children born into the world at this point  
6 late in the twentieth century face a myriad of dangers  
7 including hunger and malnutrition, child slavery,  
8 child labor, and sexual exploitation through child  
9 prostitution and pornography; and

10 WHEREAS, the Convention on the Rights of the Child  
11 stands alone in international human rights law as the  
12 clearest expression of what the world community of  
13 nations has established as the minimum standards for  
14 protecting the rights of children; and

15 WHEREAS, the Convention is the most widely accepted  
16 human rights treaty in history, having been ratified  
17 by 186 countries; and

18 WHEREAS, the only countries not having ratified the  
19 Convention are Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia,  
20 Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and the United  
21 States; and

22 WHEREAS, Madeleine Albright, the United States  
23 Ambassador to the United Nations, signed the  
24 Convention as the designee of President Clinton on  
25 February 16, 1995, thus, making the Convention  
26 eligible for ratification by the United States Senate;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, the Convention is the first international  
29 human rights treaty to combine civil and political  
30 rights with economic, social, and cultural rights for

HR 108

1 children; and

2 WHEREAS, among the rights for children recognized  
3 in the Convention's 54 articles are the rights to  
4 education and basic health care and to be protected  
5 from sexual exploitation, hazardous work conditions,  
6 and child slavery; and

7 WHEREAS, a country that ratifies the Convention is  
8 obligated to bring its laws in line with the  
9 Convention and to report to the Committee on the  
10 Rights of the Child within two years of ratification  
11 on the country's efforts to comply with the  
12 Convention; NOW THEREFORE,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
14 That the United States Senate act to protect the most  
15 vulnerable persons in our country by ratifying the  
16 Convention on the Rights of the Child.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an official copy of  
18 this Resolution be sent to Robert Dole, Majority  
19 Leader of the United States Senate, and to Thomas  
20 Daschle, Minority Leader of the United States Senate.

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