

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**
4 **By: Representative Willems**

H.C.R.

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7 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

8 REQUESTING THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH,
9 WELFARE AND LABOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE BEST
10 METHOD FOR ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PROGRAM
11 TO PROMOTE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SELF-
12 WORTH IN ARKANSAS.

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14 WHEREAS, House Bill 1526 which was introduced during the 78th Regular
15 Session of the Arkansas General Assembly was misunderstood by various groups;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the intent of the sponsor was to promote a positive program and
18 the confusion and false information surrounding House Bill 1526 created a
19 negative atmosphere; and

20 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes the urgency in addressing the
21 rapidly increasing problems, such as teen suicide, alcohol and drug abuse,
22 high school dropouts, teen pregnancy, crime and violence runaways, child
23 abuse, and chronic welfare dependency which our state faces; and

24 WHEREAS, the escalating costs for containment or correction to deviant
25 behavior and the cost expressed in human and societal terms is manifested in
26 the loss of many thousands of individuals' participation, contribution and
27 productiveness, which converts into significant expenditures of state monies;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, in 1989, the Department of Human Services investigated 15,879
30 child abuse and neglect cases; and

31 WHEREAS, in 1988, 50 youths committed suicide; and

32 WHEREAS, in 1987, 6,502 children between the ages of 10 and 19 had
33 babies; and

34 WHEREAS, in 1989, violations of Arkansas drug laws resulted in the
35 incarceration of 890 individuals costing the state \$8,995,573; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1988, there were 67,816 Aid to Families with Dependent
2 Children (AFDC) recipients with a 1989 cost of \$55,729,666; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1988, 377,809 Arkansans were on Food Stamps with a 1989 cost
4 of \$128,242,932; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1988 there were 224,480 Medicaid recipients costing
6 \$422,969,918; and

7 WHEREAS, in order to reduce these numbers, the root causes of these
8 problems must be addressed; and

9 WHEREAS, in order to protect the physical and mental health of our
10 citizens, a positive, cost-effective solution to these problems must be found.

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12 NOW THEREFORE,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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16 THAT the Joint Interim Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor
17 conduct a study to determine the best method for establishing a comprehensive
18 statewide program to promote personal and social responsibility and self-worth
19 in the State of Arkansas.

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