

R024-0405

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING S. 1735 THE GANG PREVENTION AND EFFECTIVE**
20 **DETERRENCE ACT OF 2004**

30 **WHEREAS:** S. 1735, introduced in 2004 and is expected to be reintroduced in 2005, is a
40 comprehensive, bipartisan bill to increase gang prosecution and prevention
50 efforts; and,

60 **WHEREAS:** S. 1735 authorizes approximately \$650 million over the next five years to
70 support law enforcement and prevention efforts; and,

80 **WHEREAS:** Of the \$650 million, \$450 million would be used to support Federal, State and
90 local law enforcement efforts against violent gangs, and \$200 million would be
100 used for intervention and prevention programs for at-risk youth; and,

110 **WHEREAS:** The bill also provides needed funding for the Federal prosecutors and FBI
120 agents to conduct coordinated enforcement efforts against violent gangs; and,

130 **WHEREAS:** This bill creates new criminal gang prosecution offenses, enhances existing gang
140 and violent crime penalties to deter and punish illegal street gangs, enacts
150 violent crime reforms needed to prosecute effectively gang members, and
160 implements a limited reform of the juvenile justice system to facilitate federal
170 prosecution of 16 and 17 year old gang members who commit serious violent
180 felonies; and,

190 **WHEREAS:** Gangs now resemble organized crime syndicates who readily engage in gun
200 violence, illegal gun trafficking, illegal drug trafficking and other serious
210 crimes; and,

220 **WHEREAS:** Based on the latest available National Youth Gang Survey, it is now estimated
230 that there are more than 25,000 gangs, and over 750,000 gang members who are
240 active in more than 3,000 jurisdictions across the United States; and,

250 **WHEREAS:** The most recent reports indicate that in 2002 alone, after five years of decline,
260 gang membership has spiked nationwide; and,

270 **WHEREAS:** S. 1735 adds the Department of Homeland Security, the IRS and the Postal
280 Inspection Service as agencies to be included in the gang task force, permits
290 local law enforcement to directly seek grant money, and designated that 60% of
300 the grant money is to be used for witness protection; and,

310 **WHEREAS:** S. 1735 is sponsored by Senator Orrin Hatch, and cosponsored by Senators
320 Biden, Boxer, Chambliss, Cornyn, Feinstein, Graham, Grassley, Kyl, Landrieu
330 and Schumer.

340 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the
350 Senate to reintroduced and pass S. 1735; and,

360 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the House of
370 Representatives to take up S. 1735 in a House version and pass the legislation;
380 and,

390 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature congratulates President
400 Bush on signaling his support for many of the provisions of S. 1735 which

410 brings the necessary attention to the issue and will help to ensure its passage
420 through both houses of Congress; and,

430 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges President Bush
440 to sign the legislation once passed out of Congress.

450 **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush
460 Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
470 Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid
480 Senator Orrin Hatch
490 Senator Dianne Feinstein
500 Speaker Dennis Hastert
510 Majority Leader Tom DeLay
520 Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi

SPONSOR:

Craig Reynolds, Vice DCP of Anne Arundel Community College

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