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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4016

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State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Carrell, Sullivan, Ballasiotes, Mielke, Sump, Carlson, Bush, Crouse, Buck, Dunn, D. Sommers, McDonald and Conway

Read first time . Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1            TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7 represent and petition as follows:

8            WHEREAS, Violence, including violence in schools, is becoming an  
9 all too familiar part of everyday life in America; and

10           WHEREAS, School property, including school buildings, school  
11 grounds, school-sponsored activities, and conveyances providing  
12 transportation to schools and school-sponsored activities should be  
13 safe places free from violent acts; and

14           WHEREAS, The amount of gratuitous graphic violence children are  
15 exposed to in movies, television, videos, video games, computer games,  
16 and music and on the Internet has a desensitizing and destructive  
17 impact on American culture; and

18           WHEREAS, Such violence has been shown to erode the personal  
19 constraints that family, church, and school have built up; and

20           WHEREAS, Minors are given access to information on the Internet and  
21 other forums on how to make bombs from otherwise legal and easily

1 obtainable materials and how to use them to commit terrible acts of  
2 violence; and

3 WHEREAS, Such information contains instructions about creating  
4 explosive devices or substances with such specificity and sufficiency  
5 that a young person using the information is easily able to assemble a  
6 bomb and cause it to be detonated; and

7 WHEREAS, Of the almost 11,000 incidents nationwide involving  
8 homemade bombs over the past few years, over 4,000 involved young  
9 people under the age of eighteen and the numbers are growing; and

10 WHEREAS, Although there can be no perfect protections against  
11 random violence and other acts of evil, there are some actions that can  
12 be instituted to provide more security for students, parents, teachers,  
13 staff, administrators, and guests in schools; and

14 WHEREAS, There is no right, constitutional or otherwise, to make or  
15 possess bombs and government should exercise its legitimate authority  
16 to protect the public and ensure the safety of its citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, Federal legislation is needed that will prohibit  
18 interstate commerce in providing minors access to materials about  
19 making bombs whether on the Internet or other forums;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
21 Congress of the United States enact federal legislation that will  
22 prohibit interstate commerce in providing minors access to materials  
23 about making bombs.

24 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
25 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the  
26 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker  
27 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the  
28 State of Washington.

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