

House Resolution No. 288

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE RICHEY.

2484H.02I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, healthy, functional families are fundamental to a free and vibrant society
2 and stand as chief deterrents to social ills; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, sturdy, functional men are fundamental to families; and

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6 **WHEREAS**, the current breakdown of the family can, in part, be attributed to a lack of
7 cultural interest in honorable, virtuous, and vigorous manhood, while, at the same time, there
8 exists a cultural fixation upon toxic masculinity; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, children are four times more likely to suffer poverty, absent a father; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, children are seven times more likely to face teen pregnancy, absent a father;
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15 **WHEREAS**, children are two times more likely to drop out of school, absent a father;
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18 **WHEREAS**, children are five times more likely to suffer behavioral problems, absent
19 a father; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, children are two times more likely to suffer abuse and neglect, absent a
22 father; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, children are two times more likely to be incarcerated, absent a father; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, children are four times more likely to die in the first 28 days of life, absent
27 a father; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, men over 30 years of age are more likely than women to have extra-marital
30 affairs; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, men drive 70% of the demand for the pornography industry resulting in
33 more causal responsibility regarding sex-trafficking; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, the entertainment industry devotes significant resources to exhibiting toxic
36 masculinity; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, young men require a clear challenge from exemplary, male role-models to
39 combat the pervasive influences and effects of toxic masculinity; and

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41 **WHEREAS**, the state of Missouri increasingly dedicates taxpayer resources to address
42 the aforementioned concerns:

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44 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri House
45 of Representatives, One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby
46 commend exemplary men in Missouri for their commitment to an honorable, virtuous, and
47 vigorous manhood, desiring that their sacrifices and effort in the "arena" not be forgotten; and

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49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call Missouri's young men to engage in the
50 "Missouri Manhood Challenge," which targets this same honorable, virtuous, and vigorous

51 manhood. Take up this challenge, young men, by rejecting the objectification of women; by
52 striving for future excellence upon becoming husbands and fathers; by sacrificing for the good
53 of others; by developing capabilities that lead to greater self-sufficiency and familial sustenance;
54 by strengthening yourselves spiritually, mentally, intellectually, and physically; and by embracing
55 the essential role you play in securing a free, vibrant society. We are confident that you will find
56 that this challenge is worthy of your devotion; to borrow from Alfred Lord Tennyson, its fruit
57 justifies the strength of your will "to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield" in this
58 consequential endeavor.

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