

# House Concurrent Resolution NO. 70

## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5988H.01T

2018

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### AN ACT

Relating to youth violence.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

1           **WHEREAS**, youth across this state are committing acts of violence against one another  
2 and throughout their communities; and

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4           **WHEREAS**, a national survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
5 found that United States adults reported approximately 1.56 million incidents of victimization  
6 by perpetrators estimated to be between 12 and 20 years of age; and

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8           **WHEREAS**, the CDC states, “Violence is a serious public health problem in the United  
9 States. From infants to the elderly, it affects people in all stages of life. In 2007, more than  
10 18,000 people were victims of homicide and more than 34,000 took their own life.”; and

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12           **WHEREAS**, the CDC reports that many people survive violence and are left with  
13 permanent physical and emotional scars and that violence erodes communities by reducing  
14 productivity, decreasing property values, and disrupting social services; and

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16           **WHEREAS**, a national initiative led by the CDC, Striving to Reduce Youth Violence  
17 Everywhere (STRYVE), assists communities in applying a public health perspective to  
18 preventing youth violence; and

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20           **WHEREAS**, in 1985, former United States Surgeon General C. Everett Koop declared  
21 violence as a public health issue and called for the application of the science of public health to  
22 the treatment and prevention of violence; and

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24           **WHEREAS**, in 2000, former United States Surgeon General David Satcher declared  
25 youth violence as a public health epidemic; and

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27           **WHEREAS**, Dr. Satcher released a report that deems youth violence as a threat to public  
28 health and calls for federal, state, local, and private entities to invest in research on youth  
29 violence and for the use of the knowledge gained to inform intervention programs; and

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31           **WHEREAS**, the report states that the public health approach to youth violence involves  
32 identifying risk and protective factors, determining how they work, making the public aware of  
33 these findings, and designing programs to prevent or stop the violence; and

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35           **WHEREAS**, the 2000 public health report calls for national resolve to confront the  
36 problem of youth violence systematically; to facilitate entry of youth into effective intervention  
37 programs rather than incarceration; to improve public awareness of effective interventions; to  
38 convene youth, families, researchers, and public and private organizations for a periodic youth  
39 violence summit; to develop new collaborative multidisciplinary partnerships; and to hold  
40 periodic, highly visible national summits; and

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42           **WHEREAS**, an individual's characteristics, experiences, and environmental conditions  
43 during childhood and adolescence are an indicator of future violent behavior; and

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45           **WHEREAS**, ages 15 through 18, the ages that students spend in high school, are the  
46 peak years of offending; and

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48           **WHEREAS**, there is concern about high school dropout rates, academic performance,  
49 and violence in schools across this state; and

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51           **WHEREAS**, according to the Yale School of Medicine Child Study Center, the Comer  
52 School Development Program offers low-achieving schools assistance in creating a conducive  
53 learning environment while providing a solid foundation for students; and

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55           **WHEREAS**, the work of the Yale School of Medicine Child Study Center has  
56 demonstrated that, "When teachers, administrators, parents, and mature adults interact with  
57 students in a supportive school environment and culture and provide adequate instruction in a

58 way that mediates physical, social-interactive, psycho-emotional, moral-ethical, linguistic and  
59 cognitive-intellectual development, acceptable academic achievement will take place.”; and  
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61 **WHEREAS**, the Comer School Development Program is an operating system comprised  
62 of three teams: the School Planning and Management Team, the Student and Staff Support  
63 Team, and the Parent Team, which work together to create a comprehensive school plan; and  
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65 **WHEREAS**, the Comer School Development Program model is guided by three  
66 principles: decision-making by consensus, no-fault problem solving, and collaboration; and  
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68 **WHEREAS**, due to the violence epidemic, youth suffer from either primary or secondary  
69 trauma. Primary trauma is trauma associated with the violent death of a loved one. Secondary  
70 trauma results from exposure to violence present within their community; and  
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72 **WHEREAS**, exposure to violence in families and communities, as well as exposure to  
73 homicidal death, can lead to youth-specific post-traumatic stress disorder with complex effects  
74 as well as homicidal grief; and  
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76 **WHEREAS**, trauma is not easily visible within youth because it requires proper  
77 assessment and, due to the amount of violence youth are currently exposed to, measures should  
78 be taken to properly assess the issue; and  
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80 **WHEREAS**, the experience of trauma impacts children of all situations and conditions  
81 across this state; and  
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83 **WHEREAS**, in August 2007, the CDC deemed schools as providing “a critical  
84 opportunity for changing societal behavior because almost the entire population is engaged in  
85 this institution for many years, starting at an early and formative period” and “Universal school-  
86 based violence prevention programs represent an important means of reducing violent and  
87 aggressive behavior in the United States.”;

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89 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the Missouri House of  
90 Representatives, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate concurring  
91 therein, hereby declare youth violence as a public health epidemic and support the establishment  
92 of statewide trauma-informed education; and  
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94           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that June seventh of each year shall be known and is  
95 designated as “Christopher Harris Day” in Missouri to remember children in St. Louis and  
96 throughout the state of Missouri lost to violence; and

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98           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his  
99 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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