

## HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6013

By Representative Mast

2-21

---

9 A RESOLUTION condemning harmful gangsta rap lyrics which have a  
10 detrimental effect on families and communities, and a demoralizing  
11 message against women and minorities.

12  
13 WHEREAS, Gangsta rap conveys messages that have a harmful impact  
14 on more individuals than just those who listen to it; it encourages violent  
15 and disrespectful behavior that devalues families and communities, and  
16 it infringes on the dignity of women; and

17 WHEREAS, Gangsta rap is widely criticized as an expression of anti-  
18 culture for its frequent reliance on messages that demean women and  
19 promote violence, but its continued popularity prevents many women and  
20 community leaders from speaking out against the negative stereotypes it  
21 perpetuates; and

22 WHEREAS, Individuals who are opposed to the misogynistic, sexist  
23 and racist lyrics of gangsta rap can make their voices heard by demon-  
24 strating against, and refusing to support, those who are unjustly enriched  
25 by it; and

26 WHEREAS, The First Amendment provides important protection for  
27 the freedom of speech by those in the entertainment industry, but gangsta  
28 rap abuses those rights by denigrating women and promoting stereotypes  
29 merely for the sake of financial profit; and

30 WHEREAS, Individuals are encouraged to protect themselves and  
31 their communities from the negative effects of gangsta rap by increasing  
32 awareness and reducing demand for this type of music; and

33 WHEREAS, As awareness increases regarding the negative effects  
34 gangsta rap has on communities, women and community leaders will feel  
35 empowered to speak out against hateful and derogatory lyrics in rap and  
36 to educate our youth about the dangers of perpetuating such negative  
37 stereotypes in our popular culture; and

38 WHEREAS, Rap music has always been associated with artistic crea-  
39 tivity and innovation, and rappers are certainly capable of becoming pos-  
40 itive role models, cleaning up their music, eliminating misogynistic and  
41 racist lyrics and replacing them with uplifting messages while maintaining  
42 a high level of entertainment in their songs; and

43 WHEREAS, Surely the words used to denigrate women and incite

1 violence can be rewritten to encourage respect for women, families and  
2 communities: Now, therefore,

3 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:*  
4 That we desire to empower women to defend themselves against the  
5 negative stereotypes depicted in gangsta rap and encourage community  
6 leaders to make efforts to combat the harmful effects of gangsta rap with-  
7 out infringing on the First Amendment rights of those in the entertain-  
8 ment industry; and

9 *Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of Repre-  
10 sentatives provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Representative  
11 Mast for presentation to Sonny Scroggins.