**A Resolution to Encourage Soft Power**

**WHEREAS**, the proposed United States budget significantly increases funding to the military; and

**WHEREAS**, the same budget significantly decreases funding to the Department of State which handles negotiations with other countries and often can solve conflict peacefully; and

**WHEREAS**, an “America First” policy is viewed by the rest of the world as aggressive; and

**WHEREAS**, President Theodore Roosevelt encouraged us to “Speak softly, but carry a big stick”; and

**WHEREAS**, the art of speaking softly, or “soft power” is often more effective; and

**WHEREAS**, the “big stick,” or “hard power,” is often cause for other countries to escalate military buildups and conflicts; and

**WHEREAS**, this stick can also force smaller countries to act in ways that inflate perceptions of their own power; and

**WHEREAS**, the focus on military power will only serve to inflame tensions and; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States focus on developing mutually beneficial relationships with the rest of the global community rather than rely on demonstrations of power.