

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 43

Recognizing January 2017 as National Mentoring Month.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing January 2017 as National Mentoring Month.

Whereas, in 2002, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and MENTOR: the National Mentoring Partnership established National Mentoring Month;

Whereas 2017 is the 15th anniversary of National Mentoring Month;

Whereas the goals of National Mentoring Month are—

- (1) to raise awareness of mentoring;
- (2) to recruit individuals to mentor; and
- (3) to encourage organizations to engage and integrate quality in mentoring into the efforts of the organizations;

Whereas young people across the United States make everyday choices that lead to the big decisions in life without

the guidance and support on which many other people rely;

Whereas a mentor is a caring, consistent presence who devotes time to a young person to help that young person—

- (1) discover personal strength; and
- (2) achieve the potential of that young person through a structured and trusting relationship;

Whereas quality mentoring—

- (1) encourages positive choices;
- (2) promotes self-esteem;
- (3) supports academic achievement; and
- (4) introduces young people to new ideas;

Whereas mentoring programs have shown to be effective in combating school violence and discipline problems, substance abuse, incarceration, and truancy;

Whereas research shows that young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor were, as compared with similarly situated young people without a mentor—

- (1) 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college;
- (2) 81 percent more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities;
- (3) more than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports team; and
- (4) 78 percent more likely to pay it forward by volunteering regularly in their communities;

Whereas 90 percent of young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor said they are now interested in becoming mentors themselves;

Whereas mentoring can play a role in helping young people attend school regularly, as research shows that students

who meet regularly with a mentor are, as compared with the peers of those students—

(1) 52 percent less likely to skip a full day of school; and

(2) 37 percent less likely to skip a class;

Whereas youth development experts agree that mentoring encourages smart daily behaviors, such as finishing homework, having healthy social interactions, and saying no when it counts, that have a noticeable influence on the growth and success of a young person;

Whereas mentors help young people set career goals and use the personal contacts of the mentors to help young people meet industry professionals and train for and find jobs;

Whereas all of the described benefits of mentors serve to link youth to economic and social opportunity while also strengthening the fiber of communities in the United States; and

Whereas, despite the described benefits, 9,000,000 young people in the United States feel isolated from meaningful connections with adults outside their homes, constituting a “mentoring gap” that demonstrates a need for collaboration and resources: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes January 2017 as National Men-
3 toring Month;

4 (2) recognizes the caring adults who—

5 (A) serve as staff and volunteers at quality
6 mentoring programs; and

1 (B) help the young people of the United
2 States find inner strength and reach their full
3 potential;

4 (3) acknowledges that mentoring is beneficial
5 because mentoring encourages educational achieve-
6 ment and self-confidence, reduces juvenile delin-
7 quency, improves life outcomes, and strengthens
8 communities;

9 (4) promotes the establishment and expansion
10 of quality mentoring programs across the United
11 States to equip young people with the tools needed
12 to lead healthy and productive lives; and

13 (5) supports initiatives to close the “mentoring
14 gap” that exists for the many young people in the
15 United States who do not have meaningful connec-
16 tions with adults outside their homes.

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