

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 161

Recognizing the achievements of Operation Respect, the “Don’t Laugh At Me” programs, and Peter Yarrow.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. OBEY, Mr. FROST, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. WU, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. MOORE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the achievements of Operation Respect, the “Don’t Laugh At Me” programs, and Peter Yarrow.

Whereas Operation Respect is a non-profit organization engaged in a national effort to transform after-school programs and children’s summer camps into more compassionate and respectful environments through its “Don’t Laugh At Me” program materials that address the issues of emotional and physical violence among children;

Whereas Operation Respect has conducted 230 workshops, reaching over 18,000 educators in 27 states and distributing 50,000 copies of its professionally-developed curriculum;

Whereas Peter Yarrow, musician, member of the musical group Peter, Paul and Mary, and social activist, created the “Don’t Laugh At Me” initiative and has appeared before over 240 educational organizations in 36 states on behalf of Operation Respect, as well as before the Republican Conference and Democratic Caucus of the United States House of Representatives;

Whereas the “Don’t Laugh At Me” program increases mutual respect and fellowship among hundreds of thousands of elementary school children, creating an environment for students that improves focus on their schoolwork and encourages social and emotional growth;

Whereas the “Don’t Laugh At Me” camp programs have made the environment at summer camps safer and more secure for children by creating a greater sense of empathy, tolerance, and compassion;

Whereas the “Don’t Laugh At Me” programs have made a significant impact on schools and camps through a curriculum of character education and social and emotional learning;

Whereas the overwhelming majority of students participating in a recent survey concluded that the “Don’t Laugh At Me” program was a valuable and beneficial experience and resulted in increased tolerance and acceptance by other students, a diminution of negative behaviors such as bullying, and increased openness and trust;

Whereas counselors and campers alike who participated in the “Don’t Laugh At Me” programs agreed that the programs were effective, enjoyable, and positively influenced the social and emotional growth of the children;

Whereas the success of Operation Respect and the “Don’t Laugh At Me” programs has been recognized by the National Conference of State Legislatures and major educational associations, including the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the American Association of School Administrators, the Council of Great City Colleges of Education, the National Education Association, the Council of Great City Schools, the American School Counselors Association, the National School Boards Association, the National Middle School Association, and the American Federation of Teachers; and

Whereas the National Conference of State Legislatures passed a resolution on August 12, 2001, encouraging funding and other support from States for professional development of educators in this arena and recognizing the contributions of Operation Respect in advancing State legislative initiatives to expand social and emotional learning and character education programs: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That Operation Respect, the “Don’t Laugh
 2 At Me” programs, and Peter Yarrow are commended for
 3 their major contributions to the sound emotional develop-
 4 ment, personal growth, and physical safety of children
 5 throughout the United States.

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