

## **H. Res. 809**

### ***In the House of Representatives, U.S.,***

*October 7 (legislative day, October 6), 2004.*

Whereas high-quality after-school programs provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high-quality after-school programs support working families by ensuring that their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends;

Whereas high-quality after-school programs build stronger communities by involving the Nation's students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of the Nation's young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families, and adults;

Whereas high-quality after-school programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of the Nation's children;

Whereas "Lights On Afterschool!", a national celebration of after-school programs on October 14, 2004, promotes the critical importance of high-quality after-school programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home, and 14,300,000 children have no place to go after school; and

Whereas many after-school programs across the Nation are struggling to keep their doors open and their lights on: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of “Lights On Afterschool!”, a national celebration of after-school programs; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the communities of the Nation to engage in innovative after-school programs and activities that ensure the doors stay open and the lights stay on for all children after school.

Attest:

*Clerk.*