

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 1280

Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 2010

Mr. TONKO (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIRK, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MURPHY of New York, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. SCHWARTZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

RESOLUTION

Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day.

Whereas there are approximately 55,000,000 children and 7,000,000 adults who spend their days in the Nation's more than 125,000 public and private schools;

Whereas children spend an average of 30 to 50 hours per week in school;

Whereas one-third of public school principals report that some environmental factors interfere with classroom instruction;

Whereas environmental hazards that are common in schools include unchecked renovations, pesticide misapplications, unsafe drinking water, and indoor air pollutants such as mold infestations;

Whereas poor air quality and ventilation problems and poor indoor environmental quality is associated with a wide range of problems that include poor concentration, respiratory illnesses, learning difficulties, and cancer;

Whereas about 9 percent of the Nation's students have asthma, which is a leading cause of school absenteeism and is aggravated by poor air quality and ventilation problems;

Whereas school facilities with poor building quality can result in lower test scores, poor attendance, alienated students, low staff morale, high teacher attrition, the inability to provide specialized curricula, reduced learning time, distractions from learning, reduced ability to meet special needs, lack of technological proficiency, health problems for students and staff, and safety hazards;

Whereas healthy and high performance schools are designed to improve indoor environments and reduce energy and maintenance costs, improve lighting, and reduce exposures to toxic substances and provide a healthier and safer learning environment for children and improved academic achievement and well-being;

Whereas healthy and high performance schools are designed with specific environmental factors in mind, such as adequate, safe space for outdoor activities, low-emission construction materials, pollutant source controls, ventilation, durable and easy-to-clean surfaces and floors, moisture and mold controls, temperature and humidity controls,

acoustics and noise controls, ergonomics, safety and security, lighting design maximizing natural light, and energy conservation;

Whereas National Healthy Schools Day is an important day to celebrate and promote healthy and green school environments for all children;

Whereas National Healthy Schools Day is coordinated by Healthy Schools Network in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Council of Educational Facility Planners—International and is celebrated on the first day of School Building Week; and

Whereas, April 26, 2010, would be an appropriated day to designate as “National Healthy Schools Day”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of National
3 Healthy Schools Day;

4 (2) recognizes the effect that poor quality build-
5 ings have on students’ health and performance and
6 the importance of having healthy school buildings for
7 the Nation’s schoolchildren to attend;

8 (3) supports energy efficiency and the use of re-
9 newable resources in schools; and

10 (4) supports the goals of State educational
11 agencies and local educational agencies of modern-
12 izing, renovating, and repairing their facilities to be-
13 come healthier and safer places to learn.

○