

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 258

Supporting the designation of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WEBB, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week.

Whereas the National Assessment of Adult Literacy reports that approximately 90,000,000 adults in the United States lack the literacy, numeracy, or English language skills necessary to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society;

Whereas the literacy of the people of the United States is essential for the social and economic well-being of the United States, and literacy allows individuals to benefit from full participation in society;

Whereas the United States reaps the economic benefits from the efforts of individuals to raise their literacy, numeracy, and English language skills;

Whereas literacy and educational skills are a prerequisite to individuals reaping the full benefit of opportunities in the United States;

Whereas the economy and the position of the United States in the world marketplace depend on having a literate, skilled population;

Whereas the unemployment rate in the United States is highest among individuals without a high school diploma or an equivalent credential, indicating that education is key to economic recovery;

Whereas parents who are educated and read to their children directly impact the educational success of their children;

Whereas parental involvement is a key predictor of a child's success, and the level of parental involvement increases as the education level of the parent increases;

Whereas parents in family literacy programs become more involved in their children's education and gain the tools necessary to obtain a job or find better employment;

Whereas, as a result of family literacy programs, children's lives become more stable, and success in the classroom, and in all future endeavors, becomes more likely;

Whereas adults need to be part of a long-term solution to the education challenges of the United States;

Whereas many older people in the United States lack the reading, math, or English language skills necessary to read a prescription and follow medical instructions, endangering their lives and the lives of their loved ones;

Whereas many individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, or receive public assistance lack the literacy skills to obtain and keep a job to sustain their family, continue their education, or participate in job training programs;

Whereas many high school dropouts do not have the literacy skills to complete their education, transition to postsecondary education or career and technical training, or become employed;

Whereas a large percentage of individuals in prison have low educational skills, and prisoners without educational skills are more likely to return to prison once released;

Whereas many immigrants to the United States do not have the literacy skills necessary to succeed in the United States;

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy week highlights the need to ensure that each and every citizen has the necessary literacy and educational skills to succeed at home, at work, and in society; and

Whereas the week beginning September 12, 2011, would be an appropriate week to designate as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the designation of National Adult
3 Education and Family Literacy Week, including
4 raising public awareness about the importance of
5 adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy;

6 (2) encourages people across the United States
7 to support programs to assist those in need of adult

1 education, workforce skills upgrading, and family lit-
2 eracy programs; and

3 (3) recognizes the importance of adult edu-
4 cation, workforce skills, and family literacy pro-
5 grams, and calls upon public, private, and non-profit
6 stakeholders to support increased access to adult
7 education and family literacy programs to ensure a
8 literate society.

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