

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 876

Expressing support for a whole child approach to education and recognizing the role of parents, educators, and community members in providing a whole child approach to education for each student.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing support for a whole child approach to education and recognizing the role of parents, educators, and community members in providing a whole child approach to education for each student.

Whereas each student deserves to be challenged academically, exposed to a comprehensive education that promotes critical thinking, creativity, and technical skills to be prepared for higher education and meaningful employment in our global economy, and lifelong success;

Whereas each student deserves to be supported by qualified, caring adults and receive access to personalized learning;

Whereas each student deserves to learn about and practice a healthy lifestyle;

Whereas each student deserves to learn in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe;

Whereas each student deserves to be actively engaged in learning and connected to the school and broader community;

Whereas the consequences of not ensuring that our young people are challenged, supported, healthy, safe, and engaged are clear;

Whereas the average graduation rate for United States students rose to 85 percent in 2016–2017, but the graduation rate the same year for students with disabilities was only 67 percent, the rate for English language learners was 66 percent, and the rate for economically disadvantaged students was 78 percent;

Whereas the National Academy of Medicine recommends all youth be active for 60 minutes each day, and higher academic achievement, lower absenteeism, and lower incidences of obesity are associated with daily physical activity;

Whereas most students consume as many as half their meals in school, schools play a crucial role in teaching children about healthy lifestyles, and students who have access to nutritious school foods and opportunities to learn about healthy foods are less likely to be absent and are more attentive in school;

Whereas students who feel unsafe in school are more prone to truancy and disruptive behaviors, have lower grades, and may drop out of school entirely, and according to the Indicators of School Crime and Safety report of 2018, 79 percent of public schools reported one or more incidents of violence, theft, or other crimes from 2015 to 2016,

and 20 percent of middle and high school students reported being bullied during the 2017 school year;

Whereas the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights released a report entitled “Education in a Pandemic: The Disparate Impacts of COVID–19 on America’s Students”, which highlights how the current public health crisis has disrupted our Nation’s education system and exacerbated longstanding inequities in school systems;

Whereas the COVID–19 pandemic has widened disparities in education, including in the areas of access to technology, behavioral health services, and other aids and services, which have disproportionately affected students of color, English-language learners, students with disabilities, and students from low-income families; and

Whereas the Partnership for 21st Century Skills reports that future employees must know how to communicate, collaborate, be creative, and think critically: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) expresses support for a whole child ap-  
3       proach to education;

4               (2) recognizes the benefit of ensuring that stu-  
5       dents are challenged, supported, healthy, safe, and  
6       engaged;

7               (3) encourages parents, educators, and commu-  
8       nity members to support a whole child approach to  
9       education for each student; and

1           (4) encourages the Federal Government to iden-  
2           tify opportunities among Federal agencies to coordi-  
3           nate the education, health, and social service sectors  
4           serving youth in the United States.

