

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 355

Designating the week of September 22 through 28, 2019, as “National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. REED, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating the week of September 22 through 28, 2019, as “National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week”.

Whereas the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development reports that approximately 36,000,000 adults in the United States lack the basic literacy and numeracy 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 economic and societal well-being of the United States;

Whereas the United States reaps the economic benefits of individuals who improve their literacy, numeracy, and English-language skills;

Whereas literacy and educational skills are necessary for individuals to fully benefit from the range of opportunities available in the United States;

Whereas the economy and 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 those without a high school diploma or an equivalent credential, demonstrating that education is important to economic recovery;

Whereas the educational skills of the parents of a child and the practice of reading to a child have a direct impact on the educational success of the child;

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

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

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

Whereas adults need to be part of a long-term solution to the educational challenges faced by the people 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, which

endangers the lives of the older people and the lives of their loved ones;

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

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

Whereas a large portion 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 in the United States do not have the literacy skills necessary to succeed in the United States; and

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week highlights the need to ensure that each individual in the United States has the literacy skills necessary to succeed at home, at work, and in society: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates the week of September 22
3 through 28, 2019, as “National Adult Education
4 and Family Literacy Week” to raise public aware-
5 ness about the importance of adult education, work-
6 force skills, and family literacy;

1 (2) encourages people across the United States
2 to support programs to assist individuals in need of
3 adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy
4 programs;

5 (3) recognizes the importance of adult edu-
6 cation, workforce skills, and family literacy pro-
7 grams; and

8 (4) calls on public, private, and nonprofit enti-
9 ties to support increased access to adult education
10 and family literacy programs to ensure a literate so-
11 ciety.

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