

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 661

Supporting youth civic literacy in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2000

Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. RUSH, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. REYES, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. DICKS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. HINCHEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

RESOLUTION

Supporting youth civic literacy in the United States.

Whereas the issue of youth participation in the democratic process and learning the necessary knowledge and skills to function within the United States' democratic system has been recognized as a major crisis area by representatives and elected officials, and by the leaders of educational institutions and civic organizations, across the Nation;

Whereas less than 20 percent Americans between 18 and 20 years old voted in 1998, including less than 11 percent of those 18 and 19 years old;

Whereas the absence of obvious forums for self-expression are an important contributor to the serious lack of knowledge and interest exhibited by the American populace in issues of politics, civic participation, and public discussion;

Whereas more than 75 percent of Americans between 18 and 29 years old believe that their generation has an important voice, but that no one seems to hear it;

Whereas the concept of civic literacy addresses the absence of methods and forums for self-expression and enables citizens to create a peaceful and effective society, through the use of discussion, debate, conflict resolution, and mutual respect and tolerance;

Whereas 88 percent of Americans 18 and 19 years old believe that voting in elections is an effective way to make change;

Whereas the educational leaders in many of our cities, counties, and States have begun to implement measures to deal with this crisis by acknowledging that civic education should play an integral role in all curricula; and

Whereas there are many projects in United States primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, cities, counties, States, and elsewhere throughout the Nation that address the lack of civic participation in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) supports youth civic literacy in the United
- 3 States; and
- 4 (2) urges United States educational institu-
- 5 tions, students, teachers, elected officials, community

- 1 leaders, and other interested parties to participate in
- 2 local and national youth civic education projects.

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