

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 294

Designating January 2004 as “National Mentoring Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. KERRY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. DODD, Mr. DAYTON, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. COCHRAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating January 2004 as “National Mentoring Month”.

Whereas mentoring is a strategy for motivating and helping young people succeed in life, by bringing them together in structured and trusting relationships with caring adults who provide guidance, support, and encouragement;

Whereas mentoring offers a supportive environment in which young people can grow, expand their vision, learn necessary skills, and achieve a future that the young people never thought possible;

Whereas a growing body of research shows that mentoring benefits young people in numerous ways, through improvements in school performance and attendance, self-

confidence, attitudes and relationships with adults, and motivation to reach their potential;

Whereas mentoring is an adaptable, flexible approach that can be tailored to focus on helping young people with academics, social skills, career preparation, or leadership development;

Whereas over 15,000,000 young people in this Nation still need mentors, falling into a “mentoring gap”;

Whereas mentoring relies principally on volunteer mentors, so mentoring programs must recruit even more volunteers in order to expand their program to help more young people;

Whereas, in an effort to begin closing the mentoring gap, this year Congress has significantly increased Federal grant funding for local mentoring organizations to \$100,000,000;

Whereas the recipients of these grants and other entities carrying out mentoring programs all across the country will need an influx of volunteers to meet the growing demand for mentoring;

Whereas nonprofit groups and leading media companies have joined together to designate January 2004 as National Mentoring Month to recruit more mentors for young people; and

Whereas the month-long celebration of mentoring will encourage more adults to volunteer their time as mentors for young people and enlist the involvement of nonprofit organizations, schools, businesses, faith communities, and government agencies in the mentoring movement: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1)(A) designates the month of January 2004
2 as “National Mentoring Month”; and

3 (B) requests that the President issue a procla-
4 mation calling on the people of the United States
5 and interested groups to observe the month with ap-
6 propriate ceremonies and activities that promote
7 awareness of and volunteer involvement with men-
8 toring;

9 (2) praises individuals who are already giving
10 their time to mentor young people; and

11 (3) supports efforts to recruit more adults as
12 mentors, in an effort to close the Nation’s mentoring
13 gap.

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