

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 1440

Expressing support for designation of the month of October as “National Work and Family Month”.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself, Mr. PLATTS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. CLEAV-ER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Mr. TOWNS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing support for designation of the month of October as “National Work and Family Month”.

Whereas according to the report by WorldatWork titled “Attraction and Retention”, the quality of workers’ jobs and the supportiveness of their workplaces are key predictors of job productivity, job satisfaction, commitment to employers, and retention;

Whereas employees who have more access to flexible work arrangements enabling employees to balance family and work are significantly more satisfied with their jobs, are more satisfied with their lives, and experience less interference between their jobs and family lives than those

employees who have less access to flexible work arrangements, according to the Families and Work Institute 2002 National Study of the Changing Workforce;

Whereas according to the 2004 report “Overwork in America”, employees who are able to effectively balance family and work responsibilities are less likely to report making mistakes, or feel resentment toward employers and co-workers;

Whereas employees who are able to effectively balance family and work responsibilities tend to feel more successful in their relationships with their spouses, children, and friends, and tend to feel healthier;

Whereas 85 percent of United States wage and salaried workers have immediate, day-to-day family responsibilities outside of their jobs;

Whereas research by the Radcliffe Public Policy Center in 2000 revealed that men in their 20s and 30s, and women in their 20s, 30s, and 40s, identified the most important job characteristic as being a work schedule that allows them to spend time with their families;

Whereas according to the 2006 American Community Survey, 47 percent of wage and salaried workers are parents with children under the age of 18 who live with them at least half-time;

Whereas job flexibility often allows parents to be more involved in their children’s lives, and research reveals that parental involvement is associated with children’s higher achievement in language and mathematics, improved behavior, greater academic persistence, and lower dropout rates;

Whereas the 2000 Urban Working Families study revealed that a lack of job flexibility for working parents negatively affects children's health in ways that range from children being unable to make needed doctors' appointments, to children receiving inadequate early care, leading to more severe and prolonged illness;

Whereas according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report, breastfeeding is the most beneficial form of infant nutrition, and the greater the duration of breastfeeding, the lower the odds of pediatric overweight and obesity;

Whereas according to the CDC less than half of mothers who work full time exclusively breastfeed their newborns;

Whereas according to the CDC, support for lactation at work benefits individual families as well as employers via improved productivity and staff loyalty, enhanced public image of the employer, and decreased absenteeism, health care costs, and employee turnover;

Whereas studies show that one-third of children and adolescents in the United States are obese or overweight and healthy lifestyle habits, including healthy eating and physical activity, can lower the risk of becoming obese and developing related diseases;

Whereas studies report that family rituals, such as sitting down to dinner together and sharing activities on weekends and holidays, positively influence children's health and development, and that children who ate dinner with their family every day consumed nearly a full serving more of fruits and vegetables per day than those who never ate family dinners or only did so occasionally;

Whereas furthermore, unpaid family caregivers will likely continue to be the largest source of long-term care services in the United States for elderly United States citizens and are estimated by the Department of Health and Human Service to reach 37,000,000 caregivers by 2050, an increase of 85 percent from 2000, as an increasing number of baby boomers reach retirement age in record numbers; and

Whereas the month of October would be an appropriate month to designate as “National Work and Family Month”: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) supports the designation of “National Work  
3               and Family Month”;

4               (2) recognizes the importance of balancing work  
5               and family to job productivity and healthy families;

6               (3) recognizes that an important job char-  
7               acteristic is a work schedule that allows employees  
8               to spend time with families;

9               (4) supports the goals and ideas of “National  
10              Family and Work Month”, and urges public offi-  
11              cials, employers, employees, and the general public  
12              to work together to achieve more balance between  
13              work and family; and

14              (5) requests that the President issue a procla-  
15              mation calling upon the people of the United States

- 1 to observe “National Work and Family Month” with
- 2 appropriate ceremonies and activities.

