

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-192

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 5, 2019

To declare the week of November 10 through November 16, 2019, as Opportunity Week in the District of Columbia and emphasize the promise of young people who are out of school and out of work (or “Opportunity Youth”).

WHEREAS, approximately 10,200 young people aged 16-24 in the District of Columbia are Opportunity Youth;

WHEREAS, with a 11.9 percent Opportunity Youth rate, the District ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation by states;

WHEREAS, people who experience a period of disconnection as young adults go on to earn less and are less likely to be employed, own a home, or report good health by the time they reach their thirties;

WHEREAS, the District needs a comprehensive strategy to reconnect Opportunity Youth to education and employment opportunities;

WHEREAS, Measure of America has identified four major areas for action to tackle the problem of youth disconnection: confronting intergenerational disadvantage, supporting youth who are most vulnerable, keeping youth connected, and reengaging those who are already out of school and work;

WHEREAS, newly passed District law, the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Support Act of 2019, which contains the East End and Opportunity Youth Careers Amendment Act of 2019 that permits Opportunity Youth to remain in the Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP) for 6 additional weeks; and

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS, during Opportunity Week, organizations including the National Youth Employment Coalition and Opportunity Youth Network will host convenings in Washington, D.C. to lift up best practices in serving Opportunity Youth, connect leaders in the field, and advocate for more resources to reconnect young people with education and employment.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Opportunity Week Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the continuing importance of reconnecting young people to education and employment throughout the District and declares November 10 through November 16, 2019, as Opportunity Week in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.