

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 43

Recognizing January 2017 as National Mentoring Month.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing January 2017 as National Mentoring Month.

Whereas, in 2002, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and MENTOR: the National Mentoring Partnership established National Mentoring Month;

Whereas 2017 is the 15th anniversary of National Mentoring Month;

Whereas the goals of National Mentoring Month are—

- (1) to raise awareness of mentoring;
- (2) to recruit individuals to mentor; and
- (3) to encourage organizations to engage and integrate quality in mentoring into the efforts of the organizations;

Whereas young people across the United States make everyday choices that lead to the big decisions in life without

the guidance and support on which many other people rely;

Whereas a mentor is a caring, consistent presence who devotes time to a young person to help that young person—

- (1) discover personal strength; and
- (2) achieve the potential of that young person through a structured and trusting relationship;

Whereas quality mentoring—

- (1) encourages positive choices;
- (2) promotes self-esteem;
- (3) supports academic achievement; and
- (4) introduces young people to new ideas;

Whereas mentoring programs have shown to be effective in combating school violence and discipline problems, substance abuse, incarceration, and truancy;

Whereas research shows that young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor were, as compared with similarly situated young people without a mentor—

- (1) 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college;
- (2) 81 percent more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities;
- (3) more than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports team; and
- (4) 78 percent more likely to pay it forward by volunteering regularly in their communities;

Whereas 90 percent of young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor said they are now interested in becoming mentors themselves;

Whereas mentoring can play a role in helping young people attend school regularly, as research shows that students

who meet regularly with a mentor are, as compared with the peers of those students—

(1) 52 percent less likely to skip a full day of school; and

(2) 37 percent less likely to skip a class;

Whereas youth development experts agree that mentoring encourages smart daily behaviors, such as finishing homework, having healthy social interactions, and saying no when it counts, that have a noticeable influence on the growth and success of a young person;

Whereas mentors help young people set career goals and use the personal contacts of the mentors to help young people meet industry professionals and train for and find jobs;

Whereas all of the described benefits of mentors serve to link youth to economic and social opportunity while also strengthening the fiber of communities in the United States; and

Whereas, despite the described benefits, 9,000,000 young people in the United States feel isolated from meaningful connections with adults outside their homes, constituting a “mentoring gap” that demonstrates a need for collaboration and resources: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) recognizes January 2017 as National Men-  
3       toring Month;

4               (2) recognizes the caring adults who—

5                       (A) serve as staff and volunteers at quality  
6       mentoring programs; and

1 (B) help the young people of the United  
2 States find inner strength and reach their full  
3 potential;

4 (3) acknowledges that mentoring is beneficial  
5 because mentoring encourages educational achieve-  
6 ment and self-confidence, reduces juvenile delin-  
7 quency, improves life outcomes, and strengthens  
8 communities;

9 (4) promotes the establishment and expansion  
10 of quality mentoring programs across the United  
11 States to equip young people with the tools needed  
12 to lead healthy and productive lives; and

13 (5) supports initiatives to close the “mentoring  
14 gap” that exists for the many young people in the  
15 United States who do not have meaningful connec-  
16 tions with adults outside their homes.

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