

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 430

Designating October 20, 2023, as “National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KING)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating October 20, 2023, as “National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day”.

Whereas many children from families with low incomes begin school already far behind children from families with higher incomes;

Whereas research shows that children from families with low incomes are less likely to have interactions that are critical for language development, including—

- (1) being read to or spoken to regularly;
- (2) having access to books;
- (3) having a literacy-rich environment; and
- (4) accessing high-quality early childhood education programs;

Whereas language development is an important precursor to literacy;

Whereas access to high-quality early childhood education programs can support early childhood language development and literacy;

Whereas, as early as 3 years of age, the vocabulary of a child can predict the future third-grade reading proficiency of the child;

Whereas, during the first 3 years of life, children from families with low-incomes can hear as many as 30,000,000 fewer words than children from more affluent families;

Whereas, in 2022, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (referred to in this preamble as “NAEP”) reported that—

(1) 66 percent of fourth-grade public school students nationally performed below the NAEP proficient level in reading; and

(2) 37 percent of fourth-grade public school students nationally performed below the NAEP basic level in reading; and

Whereas awareness of early childhood literacy issues must be heightened to encourage greater support to help children achieve reading proficiency: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates October 20, 2023, as “National
3 Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day”;

4 (2) encourages States, localities, schools, early
5 childhood education programs, and nonprofit organi-
6 zations to observe the day with appropriate pro-
7 grams and activities, with the goal of increasing

1 public awareness about early childhood literacy
2 issues;

3 (3) recognizes the need to make early childhood
4 literacy a public priority;

5 (4) supports the efforts of businesses, State and
6 local governments, early childhood education pro-
7 grams, nonprofit organizations, educators, and vol-
8 unteers dedicated to increasing childhood literacy
9 rates;

10 (5) applauds the initiatives of businesses, State
11 and local governments, early childhood education
12 programs, nonprofit organizations, educators, and
13 volunteers that—

14 (A) use time and resources to address
15 early childhood literacy issues, the causes of
16 poor reading scores, and potential solutions to
17 those issues; and

18 (B) work to promote the love of reading
19 among children; and

20 (6) encourages parents, other family members,
21 and caregivers to introduce children to the world of
22 books and other literacy activities in different ways,
23 including by—

24 (A) reading to children;

25 (B) telling stories;

- 1 (C) teaching letters and words; and
- 2 (D) visiting libraries.

