

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 252

Supporting the goals of National Arson Awareness Week.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2005

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. HOYER, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GORDON, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. KING of New York) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals of National Arson Awareness Week.

Whereas the increase in arson fires that cause fatalities is a troublesome statistic;

Whereas many other fatal fires are preventable through increased outreach, supervision, and technological innovation;

Whereas the goals of National Arson Awareness Week are to create a national recognition, awareness, and understanding of the school fire problem in the United States;

to encourage communities to get involved in the dissemination of arson awareness information by creating a simple, identifiable, and unifying message for intervention and prevention; to organize local events that raise a community's awareness of school fires and arson issues; and to engage national, regional, and local media outlets in delivering the message;

Whereas the price that America pays for fires set in our schools is extreme;

Whereas the crime of youth fire setting and juvenile arson accounts for over 50 percent of all intentionally set fires;

Whereas the leading cause of school structure fires on average is incendiary or suspicious activity, which includes arson fires, and accounts for 37 percent of all school structure fires and 52 percent of middle and high school structure fires;

Whereas 78 percent of school fires occur during the school week and 22 percent on weekends;

Whereas 55 percent of fires occur between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., the hours students are most likely to be in school;

Whereas in addition to fire departments, communities must involve the police department, mental health professionals, the school system, children's hospitals, social services, and the media in the issue of fire in schools;

Whereas public awareness is one of the specific responsibilities of the International Association of Arson Investigators;

Whereas if citizens become more informed about arson prevention and intervention and treatment programs for these heinous acts of burning are made available, strides can be made in this preventable malfeasance;

Whereas the International Association of Arson Investigators has designated the first week of May each year as National Arson Awareness Week; and

Whereas this year the theme of National Arson Awareness Week is “School Arson—A Burning Subject”: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives supports
- 2 the goals of National Arson Awareness Week.

