

Whereas young people are leading the way in developing new forms of composing by using different forms of digital media;

Whereas effective communication contributes to building a global economy and a global community;

Whereas the National Council of Teachers of English, in conjunction with its many national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of writing through the National Day on Writing;

Whereas the National Day on Writing celebrates the foundational place of writing in the personal, professional, and civic lives of the people of the United States;

Whereas the National Day on Writing highlights the importance of writing instruction and practice at every educational level and in every subject area;

Whereas the National Day on Writing emphasizes the lifelong process of learning to write and compose for different audiences, purposes, and occasions;

Whereas the National Day on Writing honors the use of the full range of media for composing, from traditional tools, including print, audio, and video, to social media, including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, and Internet website tools, including blogs, wikis, and podcasts;

Whereas the National Day on Writing encourages all people of the United States and overseas to write, enjoy, and learn from the writing of others;

Whereas in 2015, the hashtag #WhyIWrite generated over 60,000 tweets and reached millions of people, encouraging students, from elementary school through the university level, athletes, authors, and artists from all over the world to participate; and

Whereas, on the National Day of Writing in 2016, the National Council of Teachers of English encourages all people of the United States to tell others #WhyIWrite through print, social media, or other means: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 20, 2016, as the “National Day on Writing”;

(2) strongly affirms the purposes of the National Day on Writing; and

(3) encourages educational institutions, businesses, community and civic associations, and other organizations to celebrate and promote the National Day on Writing.

SENATE RESOLUTION 600—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 26 THROUGH 30, 2016, AS “NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK”

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REED, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 600

Whereas the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development reports that approximately 36,000,000 adults in the United States lack the basic literacy and numeracy necessary to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society;

Whereas the literacy of the people of the United States is essential for the economic and societal well-being of the United States;

Whereas the United States reaps the economic benefits of individuals who improve their literacy, numeracy, and English-language skills;

Whereas literacy and educational skills are necessary for individuals to fully benefit from the range of opportunities available in the United States;

Whereas the economy and position of the United States in the world marketplace depend on having a literate, skilled population;

Whereas the unemployment rate in the United States is highest among those without a high school diploma or an equivalent credential, demonstrating that education is important to economic recovery;

Whereas the educational skills of the parents of a child and the practice of reading to a child have a direct impact on the educational success of the child;

Whereas parental involvement in the education of a child is a key predictor of the success of a child, and the level of parental involvement in the education of a child increases as the educational level of the parent increases;

Whereas parents who participate in family literacy programs become more involved in the education of their children and gain the tools necessary to obtain a job or find better employment;

Whereas, as a result of family literacy programs, the lives of children become more stable, and the success of children in the classroom and in future endeavors becomes more likely;

Whereas adults need to be part of a long-term solution to the educational challenges faced by the people of the United States;

Whereas many older people in the United States lack the reading, math, or English-language skills necessary to read a prescription and follow medical instructions, which endangers the lives of the older people and the lives of their loved ones;

Whereas many individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, or receive public assistance lack the literacy skills necessary to obtain and keep a job, to continue their education, or to participate in job training programs;

Whereas many high school dropouts do not have the literacy skills necessary to complete their education, transition to postsecondary education or career and technical training, or obtain a job;

Whereas a large portion of individuals in prison have low educational skills and prisoners without educational skills are more likely to return to prison once released;

Whereas many immigrants in the United States do not have the literacy skills necessary to succeed in the United States; and

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week highlights the need to ensure that each individual in the United States has the literacy skills necessary to succeed at home, at work, and in society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 26 through 30, 2016, as “National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week” to raise public awareness about the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy;

(2) encourages people across the United States to support programs to assist individuals in need of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs;

(3) recognizes the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs; and

(4) calls on public, private, and nonprofit entities to support increased access to adult education and family literacy programs to ensure a literate society.

SENATE RESOLUTION 601—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2016 AS “NATIONAL DYSTONIA AWARENESS MONTH” AND RAISING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISORDER OF DYSTONIA

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 601

Whereas National Dystonia Awareness Month will raise public awareness and understanding of the disorder of dystonia, which has numerous manifestations affecting people of all ages, races, genders, and backgrounds;

Whereas National Dystonia Awareness Month will also foster understanding of the impact the various forms of dystonia have on the individuals who are affected and the families of those individuals;

Whereas dystonia is a neurological disorder presenting in various forms, characterized by involuntary muscle contractions that cause abnormal and often repetitive movements or postures;

Whereas symptoms of dystonia may impede the ability of an individual—

(1) to walk, as in generalized dystonia or limb dystonia;

(2) to control the posture of the head of the individual, as in cervical dystonia;

(3) to speak, as in spasmodic dysphonia or oromandibular dystonia;

(4) to see, as in blepharospasm; or

(5) to write, as in hand dystonia;

Whereas there are limited treatments and no cure for dystonia;

Whereas dystonia is commonly misdiagnosed, delaying access to appropriate medical care for those individuals who are affected;

Whereas countless friends, loved ones, spouses, and caregivers must shoulder the physical, emotional, and financial burdens that dystonia causes;

Whereas the severity of the symptoms of dystonia and the limited public awareness of the disease cause many patients to be isolated;

Whereas the dystonia community is uniting to cooperate on awareness efforts throughout September of 2016; and

Whereas the Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation, Dystonia, Inc., the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, the National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association, and the National Spasmodic Torticollis Association are dedicated to—

(1) conducting research to find treatments and a cure for dystonia;

(2) fostering public awareness and understanding of dystonia;

(3) educating patients and their families about dystonia to improve the treatment of and care for patients; and

(4) providing support and encouraging individuals to become advocates, including by sponsoring annual patient education conferences, school-based educational programs, and local events to raise funds for dystonia research, education, advocacy, and awareness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2016 as “National Dystonia Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Dystonia Awareness Month to raise public awareness and understanding of dystonia;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research to find a cure for all forms of dystonia; and