

S. RES. 863

Whereas recent data from the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies indicate that 28 percent of adults in the United States performed at Level 1 or below in literacy and 34 percent of adults in the United States performed at Level 1 or below in numeracy;

Whereas data from the 2023 American Community Survey indicate that nearly 21,000,000 adults in the United States lack a high school credential and more than 20,000,000 adults have limited English proficiency;

Whereas the literacy, numeracy, English-language, digital, and workforce skills of the people of the United States are essential to the economic strength, competitiveness, and national security of the United States;

Whereas a skilled and adaptable workforce is critical to meeting the evolving needs of employers, strengthening local and regional economies, and maintaining the competitive position of the United States in the global economy;

Whereas adult education and literacy programs provide individuals with the foundational skills necessary to access employment, career advancement, postsecondary education and training, career technical education, and apprenticeship opportunities;

Whereas adult education plays an essential role in a skills-based economy by helping individuals develop, demonstrate, and communicate the skills needed to succeed in education, the workforce, and their communities;

Whereas literacy, numeracy, digital literacy, and the ability to effectively use artificial intelligence and emerging technologies are increasingly important for individuals to navigate a rapidly changing economy, access education and training, and participate fully in the workplace and society;

Whereas English-language acquisition programs help individuals strengthen their English proficiency, prepare for and advance in employment, pursue education and training, and contribute their skills and talents to the economy and communities of the United States;

Whereas adult education serves as a critical on-ramp to the workforce development system, career and technical education, integrated education and training, pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship programs, and postsecondary education;

Whereas employers across the United States need access to a skilled and adaptable workforce, and adult education programs help expand the talent pool of the United States by equipping adults with the foundational, workforce, and durable skills necessary to meet evolving workforce needs;

Whereas adult education and literacy programs support economic mobility by helping individuals strengthen their skills, earn secondary and industry-recognized credentials, transition to postsecondary education and training, enter employment, and advance along career pathways;

Whereas the educational skills of parents and caregivers have a significant impact on the educational success and well-being of children;

Whereas family literacy programs strengthen the skills of parents and caregivers, increase engagement in the education of their children, and support educational and economic opportunity across generations;

Whereas strong literacy, numeracy, digital, and English-language skills help individuals access and understand health information, financial services, public resources, and other information necessary to make informed decisions for themselves and their families;

Whereas adult education provides individuals of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to build skills throughout their lives and adapt to changing workplace, technological, and economic demands;

Whereas partnerships among adult education providers, workforce development systems, employers, career and technical education programs, postsecondary education institutions, community-based organizations, and other public and private partners strengthen pathways to economic opportunity and help address local, regional, and national workforce needs;

Whereas investments in adult education and family literacy strengthen individuals, families, employers, communities, and the economy of the United States; and

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week highlights the essential role of adult education and literacy in ensuring that individuals across the United States have the skills and opportunities necessary to succeed at home, at work, and in their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of September 13 through 19, 2026, as “National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week” to raise public awareness of the essential role of adult education and family literacy in strengthening workforce skills, economic mobility, families, communities, and the economy of the United States;

(2) recognizes adult education and family literacy as essential components of the education, workforce development, and economic opportunity infrastructure of the United States;

(3) recognizes the importance of expanding access to high-quality adult education, literacy, numeracy, English-language acquisition, digital literacy, workforce preparation, and family literacy services;

(4) encourages stronger partnerships among adult education providers, workforce development systems, employers, career and technical education programs, postsecondary institutions, community-based organizations, and other public and private partners to create effective pathways to education, training, employment, career advancement, and economic mobility; and

(5) calls on public, private, and nonprofit entities to support and expand access to adult education and family literacy programs so that individuals across the United States can develop the skills needed to thrive in a changing economy and contribute to strong families, communities, and the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 864—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26, 2026, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 864

Whereas estuary regions cover only 4 percent of the land area in the continental United States but contain nearly 40 percent of the population, 39 percent of the jobs, and 47 percent of the economic output of the United States;

Whereas the oceans, estuaries, and Great Lakes of the United States continue to fuel economic growth across the United States, with employment from the estuarine and ocean economy growing at 4.5 percent in 2023, compared to the national average employment growth of 2 percent;

Whereas the estuary, ocean, and Great Lakes economic sectors created 111,000 new jobs between 2022 and 2023, employed 2,600,000 people, and contributed \$511,000,000,000 to the 2023 gross domestic product;

Whereas the commercial and recreational fishing industries support over 2,100,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas, in 2023—

(1) commercial and recreational saltwater fishing in the United States generated \$319,000,000,000 in sales;

(2) angler trip expenditures totaled approximately \$14,400,000,000; and

(3) saltwater recreational fishing supported over 694,041 jobs, generated \$145,400,000,000 in sales impacts across the economy, and contributed \$47,100,000,000 in income impacts and \$78,400,000,000 in value-added impacts to the United States;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats, nurseries, and migration stopovers for—

(1) countless species of fish and wildlife, including more than 68 percent of the commercial fish catch in the United States by value and 80 percent of the recreational fish catch in the United States by weight; and

(2) many species that are listed as threatened or endangered, including birds integral to the health of estuaries, such as the Snowy Plover and Saltmarsh Sparrow;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes, storms, and other extreme weather events;

Whereas restored wetlands in the United States have been shown to remove up to 80 percent of nitrogen and 70 percent of phosphorus from runoff waters;

Whereas mangrove ecosystems in Florida are estimated to reduce storm surge losses to properties by \$67,500,000 annually;

Whereas coastal wetlands from Maine to North Carolina prevented \$625,000,000 in property damage during Hurricane Sandy;

Whereas areas with healthy salt marshes in New Jersey experience 16 percent lower annual flood losses than areas without healthy salt marshes;

Whereas, by the 1980s, the United States had already lost more than 50 percent of the wetlands that existed in the Thirteen Original Colonies;

Whereas the degradation and loss of estuaries has led to the collapse of some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters and have now become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical waste, and marine debris;

Whereas harmful algal blooms are hurting fish, wildlife, and human health and are causing serious ecological and economic harm to many estuaries;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) (commonly known as the “Clean Water Act”) authorizes the development of comprehensive

conservation and management plans to ensure that the designated uses of estuaries are protected and to restore and maintain—

- (1) chemical, physical, and biological integrity;
- (2) water quality;
- (3) the balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife; and
- (4) recreational activity;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zones of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 27 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate or contain a National Estuary Program or a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and Tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, generating an average of 17 jobs for every \$1,000,000 invested and helping to reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 19 through September 26, 2026, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State, local, and Tribal government officials, of the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) expresses support for the designation of “National Estuaries Week”;
- (2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;
- (3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and to the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;
- (4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of estuaries;
- (5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;
- (6) supports the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and
- (7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 865—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS ENGAGED IN THE ARBITRARY OR WRONGFUL DETENTION OF AMERICAN ACADEMICS AND HAS OTHERWISE HARMED THE PROSPECTS FOR SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. CURTIS) submitted the following resolution; which was re-

ferred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 865

Whereas the People’s Republic of China (referred to in this preamble as the “PRC”) has a long history of detaining United States citizens under dubious circumstances or depriving them of their freedom;

Whereas the PRC has used the arbitrary or wrongful detention of Americans and other foreign nationals for political purposes to obtain concessions from the United States and other countries, which undermines the legitimacy of the PRC’s judicial system;

Whereas current and previous Secretaries of State have determined, pursuant to section 302(e)(2)(A) of the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741(e)(2)(A)), that at least 5 United States citizens have been wrongfully detained in the PRC since the wrongful detention designation was established on December 27, 2020;

Whereas the Department of State previously recommended that United States citizens traveling to the PRC reconsider such travel due to serious risks, including wrongful detention, but the China Travel Advisory was downgraded from Level 3 to Level 2 on November 27, 2024;

Whereas the PRC’s arbitrary or wrongful detention of United States citizens—

- (1) undermines the rule of law;
- (2) subjects United States citizens and their families to undue hardship; and
- (3) is unacceptably coercive to the United States Government;

Whereas, on November 5, 2024, the Government of the PRC arrested Dr. Youlin Chen, a United States citizen who has conducted transparent and open-source seismological research in cooperation with academics in the PRC, and has held him on baseless espionage charges for more than 600 days without a trial or access to his family;

Whereas the Government of the PRC deprived Dr. Chen of access to a lawyer for the first 434 days of his detention and interrogated him more than 100 times about his work without a lawyer present;

Whereas, despite high-level engagement between the United States Government and the Government of the PRC to resolve Dr. Chen’s case, the Government of the PRC has not yet taken any productive action to release Dr. Chen;

Whereas, on June 3, 2026, authorities of the PRC detained Min Zin, a United States citizen who is the executive director of a Myanmar-focused policy think tank, at the Kunming Changshui International Airport after he was invited to attend an academic event at a university in Yunnan province in the PRC;

Whereas the Kunming Municipal State Security Bureau has subjected Min Zin to detention and he has not yet had access to legal counsel;

Whereas the PRC’s practice of engaging in “hostage diplomacy” against the United States and other foreign countries runs contrary to its stated intent to promote academic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges and increases the risks for United States citizens and others considering travel to the PRC; and

Whereas, in advance of PRC leadership’s anticipated visit to Washington, D.C., in September 2026, the Government of the PRC has an opportunity to demonstrate its good faith and commitment to a constructive relationship of “strategic stability” by unconditionally releasing Dr. Youlin Chen and Min Zin: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) condemns the People’s Republic of China’s repeated pattern of arbitrary or wrong-

ful detention of United States citizens as unacceptable and a material harm to the bilateral relationship and the prospects for bolstering academic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges;

(2) urges the United States Government to make the safe return of United States citizens detained in China a top priority, including the return of Dr. Youlin Chen and Min Zin;

(3) urges the Secretary of State to use all available tools to negotiate the release of all United States nationals being unlawfully or wrongfully detained in the People’s Republic of China, including by—

(A) considering adding a “D” indicator to the China Travel Advisory to make it clear to United States nationals considering travel to the People’s Republic of China that the country engages in the wrongful detention of United States citizens;

(B) raising the Travel Advisory Level on the PRC from Level 2 (exercise increased caution) to Level 3 (reconsider travel) to reflect the current travel risks; and

(C) reviewing the criteria for the designation of a country as a State Sponsor of Wrongful Detention pursuant to section 306A of the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741d-1); and

(4) supports President Trump’s efforts to raise concerns about the continued detention of Dr. Chen and Min Zin to bring both United States citizens home to their loved ones safely and quickly.

SENATE RESOLUTION 866—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 2026 AS “SUBSTANCE USE & MISUSE PREVENTION MONTH” TO RAISE AWARENESS OF SUBSTANCE USE AND MISUSE IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 866

Whereas initiation of substance use during adolescence is associated with substance use and misuse in adulthood;

Whereas, in 2025, an estimated 56,800,000 people in the United States aged 12 and older participated in binge drinking;

Whereas, in 2025, more than 69,800,000 or 1 in 4 people in the United States aged 12 and older used an illicit drug, including cocaine and methamphetamine;

Whereas, in 2025, an estimated 44,600,000 people in the United States aged 12 and older had a substance use disorder;

Whereas, in 2025, an estimated 26,000,000 people in the United States aged 12 and older had an illicit drug use disorder;

Whereas, in 2025, an estimated 7,600,000 people in the United States aged 12 and older received substance use disorder treatment; and

Whereas, in 2025, more than 22,300,000 people in the United States aged 18 and older were in recovery from a substance use problem: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports—

- (1) effective programs to prevent substance use and misuse;
- (2) programs to help stem the drug addiction and overdose epidemic in the United States; and
- (3) the designation of October 2026 as “Substance Use & Misuse Prevention Month”.