

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 47

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2005

Received and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
Pensions

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending the establishment in College Point, New York,
of the first free, public kindergarten in the United States.

Whereas in 1854, Conrad Poppenhusen, a successful businessman from Germany, built a factory in College Point, Queens, New York, and, breaking with many entrepreneurs of his time, worked to create an environment beneficial to the immigrant community, which included schools;

Whereas the Poppenhusen Institute was established in 1868 with a \$100,000 donation;

Whereas the Poppenhusen Institute was to serve the fundamental educational needs of the community and began as a free adult evening school for the residents of Flushing Town;

Whereas in 1870, the Poppenhusen Institute's services expanded to serve as the first free, public kindergarten in the United States for the children of Mr. Poppenhusen's factory and the community;

Whereas children who attend a high-quality kindergarten demonstrate higher levels of reading and mathematics knowledge and skills than those who do not attend kindergarten;

Whereas a number of studies, including studies commissioned by the Department of Education, demonstrate that children enrolled in kindergarten more rapidly acquire the knowledge and skills integral to succeed in school and life;

Whereas the United States is a stronger, better place because of the children who are able to enrich their academic and social development through free kindergartens across the country;

Whereas for some children, kindergarten is the first common ground where they interact with students from a myriad of cultural, economic, racial, and religious backgrounds to learn about their world, each other, and themselves; and

Whereas universal, free, high-quality kindergarten for the Nation's children provides benefits both to these children and to society at large: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) the Congress commends the Poppenhusen
4 Institute and the College Point community for estab-
5 lishing the first free, public kindergarten in the
6 United States; and

7 (2) the Congress supports the strong begin-
8 nings kindergartens across the United States provide
9 for the Nation's children.

Passed the House of Representatives June 13, 2005.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.