

H. Res. 660

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

February 8, 2006.

Whereas youth mentoring is a centuries-old concept, through which a dependable adult provides guidance, support, and encouragement to help a young person become a responsible, productive adult;

Whereas mentoring, when done well, helps young people stay in school and improve academically, boosts self-esteem and communication skills, and improves the chances of going on to higher education;

Whereas there are thousands of mentoring programs in communities of all sizes across the United States, focused on building strong, effective relationships between caring and responsible adults and young people who need positive adult role models;

Whereas in spite of the great benefits mentoring provides, America has a serious mentoring gap, with more than 15 million young people currently in need of caring adult role models;

Whereas the demand for mentoring far exceeds the current capacity of local mentoring programs and the number of adults who currently volunteer as mentors;

Whereas on December 22, 2005, the President designated January 2006 as National Mentoring Month to focus the

Nation's attention on the essential role mentoring plays in the lives of young people;

Whereas the month-long celebration of mentoring will encourage more individuals and organizations, including schools, businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith institutions, and foundations, to become engaged in mentoring; and

Whereas National Mentoring Month will, most importantly, build awareness of mentoring and recruit more individuals to become mentors, helping close our Nation's mentoring gap: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month;

(2) acknowledges the hard work of individuals and groups who promote mentoring and who are observing the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of and volunteer involvement with youth mentoring; and

(3) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of caring adults who are already serving as mentors and encourages more adults to volunteer as mentors.

Attest:

Clerk.