

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 873

Expressing support for designating November 2023 as “National Career Development Month”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Ms. BONAMICI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for designating November 2023 as “National Career Development Month”.

Whereas November 2023 marks the 110th year that the National Career Development Association is committed to its mission of inspiring and empowering individuals to achieve their career and life goals;

Whereas a competitive global economy requires workers who make informed career choices to prepare for skilled professions;

Whereas preparation for a purposeful career path helps to ensure gainful employment best utilizing one’s skills and talent, while providing potential employers with a well-prepared workforce ready to meet the challenges of the global marketplace;

Whereas career development programs enable students to gain a realistic understanding of how formal education prepares them for post-high school plans, which may include immediate employment in a civilian or military occupation, or further education at a career and technical education program, community college, or university;

Whereas career development activities in our communities contribute to lower unemployment as people identify careers that match their interests and desired work environments;

Whereas freedom of occupational and career choice is one of the most important birthrights of every United States citizen, and this freedom will be protected and enhanced throughout life;

Whereas professional career development assistance, including career counseling, should be available to all persons throughout their lifespans;

Whereas career development assistance is a community partnership effort involving the education system, the home and family structure, business, industry, and a wide variety of community agencies and organizations, and is not carried out by career development professionals alone;

Whereas the right to change occupations or career directions is fully as important as the right to choose an occupation or career direction;

Whereas accurate, up-to-date information about educational and occupational opportunities is vital;

Whereas helping individuals increase self-understanding of their abilities, interests, values, and goals is a vital foundation of the career development process;

Whereas career professionals help to provide career development services to inspire and empower our citizens' attention to where it is needed most: empowering the national economy through maximum individual productivity;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of September 2023, 6,400,000 workers are unemployed;

Whereas career professionals help the United States worker meet the very real and immediate challenges of economic development, student achievement, and global competitiveness;

Whereas career professionals are a vital resource for the livelihood of our Nation's workforce and are underutilized relative to their potential need and value;

Whereas a Harris Interactive Poll, conducted in partnership with the National Career Development Association, examined the perceptions of today's workforce on the effectiveness of career counselors, the need for expanded workforce training opportunities, and the hardships implicit in selecting, changing, or getting a job in the current economic climate, and the feedback is very clear; and

Whereas the 2021 Harris Interactive Poll results revealed that—

(1) only 13 percent of adults report that they had worked with a career specialist such as a school or private counselor, but 85 percent of Americans find professional career development assistance valuable; and

(2) 58 percent of Americans regret not having worked with a career services professional in the past: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) expresses support for the designation of
2 “National Career Development Month”;

3 (2) affirms that career professionals are a valu-
4 able resource for the Nation’s workforce;

5 (3) recognizes career development activities in-
6 crease competencies needed for success in a global
7 economy;

8 (4) urges workers and jobseekers to utilize the
9 services of career professionals; and

10 (5) encourages career professionals, students,
11 educators, parents, employers, and the current work-
12 force to celebrate and promote career development.

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