

House Resolution 110 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 110

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SITZMANN, GUSTOFF, BEHN, DUNWELL, HENDERSON, HAYES,
and LARSON

1 A Resolution honoring the Phoenix Declaration.

2 WHEREAS, parents are the primary educators of their
3 children, and parents should have the freedom to choose
4 the learning environments that align with their values
5 and best meet their children's individual learning
6 needs, with public education funding following the
7 child; and

8 WHEREAS, educational policies should respect
9 the right and high duty of parents to raise their
10 children and make decisions about their children's
11 education; and

12 WHEREAS, schools, as secondary educators, should
13 work with parents, not attempt to serve as replacements
14 for parents; and

15 WHEREAS, schools have a responsibility to be
16 transparent with parents about what their children are
17 being taught and how their children are performing; and

18 WHEREAS, schools must never use misguided
19 policies that hide information from parents about
20 their children's mental, emotional, or physical
21 well-being; and

22 WHEREAS, the highest form of accountability is
23 when schools are answerable directly to well-informed
24 parents; and

25 WHEREAS, education must be grounded in truth, and
26 students should learn that there is objective truth and

1 that it is knowable; and

2 WHEREAS, science courses must be grounded in
3 reality, not ideological fads, and students should
4 learn that good and evil exist, and that human beings
5 have the capacity and duty to choose good; and

6 WHEREAS, a central purpose of education is to
7 transmit humanity's accumulated knowledge and wisdom,
8 as well as America's particular culture and heritage,
9 to the next generation, and a civilization survives
10 only if it intentionally transmits its history,
11 traditions, and values, including its yet unrealized
12 aspirations, to the next generation; and

13 WHEREAS, true progress comes only by building
14 on what has been learned and achieved in the past,
15 and students should therefore learn about America's
16 founding principles and roots in the broader Western
17 and Judeo-Christian traditions; and

18 WHEREAS, students should study only the best that
19 has been thought and said, engaging in the great
20 conversation among the competing viewpoints that
21 comprise our intellectual heritage, so that they freely
22 make the best views their own; and

23 WHEREAS, education must prepare children for the
24 challenges and responsibilities of adulthood, and
25 that endeavor entails much more than merely preparing
26 students for a career; and

27 WHEREAS, a proper education is focused on the
28 full formation of a child, particularly the child's
29 character, and education should cultivate the virtues
30 and discipline necessary for self-governance; and

1 WHEREAS, students must be held accountable for
2 their behavior, both to learn that their choices have
3 consequences and to maintain the order necessary for
4 learning to proceed; and

5 WHEREAS, schools should foster academic excellence
6 and prioritize a rigorous and content-rich curriculum
7 rooted in foundational subjects such as math,
8 literature, science, history, civics, and the arts; and

9 WHEREAS, emphasis should be placed on core
10 knowledge and tried-and-true pedagogy rather than
11 fads or experimental teaching methods, students
12 should be challenged and rewarded for hard work and
13 accomplishment, and schools should help students
14 achieve their full potential, going as far and as fast
15 as their talents will take them; and

16 WHEREAS, a republic depends upon an educated and
17 patriotic citizenry, and schools should teach students
18 the civic virtues and civic knowledge necessary for
19 self-government and the task of building a more perfect
20 union, including the value of civil disagreement; and

21 WHEREAS, schools should also foster a healthy
22 sense of patriotism and cultivate gratitude for and
23 attachment to our country and all who serve its central
24 institutions; and

25 WHEREAS, our shared civic rituals, such as the
26 Pledge of Allegiance and national anthem, should be
27 respected and revived; and

28 WHEREAS, students should develop a deep
29 understanding of and respect for America's founding
30 documents and the ideas they contain about ordered

1 liberty, justice, the rule of law, limited government,
2 natural rights, and the equal dignity of all human
3 beings; and

4 WHEREAS, students should learn the whole truth about
5 America, its merits and failings, without obscuring
6 that America is a great source of good in the world and
7 that we have a tradition that is worth passing on; NOW
8 THEREFORE,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
10 the House of Representatives believes that in order
11 to empower families, advance educational excellence,
12 transmit our culture, and uphold the foundational
13 principles of our constitutional republic, the
14 principles described above, as set out in the Phoenix
15 Declaration, should guide American families, schools,
16 and policymakers; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
18 Representatives fully supports the Phoenix Declaration.