

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY WARNSTADT

A Resolution recognizing April 15, 2005, as "National Youth Service Day".

WHEREAS, National Youth Service Day is an annual public awareness and education campaign that highlights the valuable contributions that young people make to their communities throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, the goals of National Youth Service Day are to mobilize youth as leaders in identifying and addressing the needs of their communities through service and service learning, to support youth on a lifelong path of service and civic engagement, and to educate the public, the media, and policymakers about the year-round contributions of young people as community leaders; and

WHEREAS, young people in the United States, and in many other countries, are volunteering more than in any generation in history; and

WHEREAS, young people should be viewed as the hope not only of the future, but also of today, and should be valued for the idealism, energy, creativity, and commitment they bring to the challenges found in their communities; and

WHEREAS, there is a fundamental and conclusive correlation between youth service and lifelong adult volunteering and philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, through community service, young people build character and learn valuable skills, including

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1 time management, teamwork, needs assessment, and
2 leadership, that are sought by employers; and

3 WHEREAS, service learning, an innovative teaching
4 method combining service to the community with
5 curriculum-based learning, is a proven strategy to
6 increase academic achievement and strengthens civic
7 engagement and civic responsibility; and

8 WHEREAS, several private foundations and
9 corporations in the United States support service
10 learning because they understand that strong
11 communities begin with strong schools and a community
12 investment in the lives and futures of youth; and

13 WHEREAS, a sustained investment by government,
14 business partners, schools, and communities fuels the
15 positive, long-term cultural change that will make
16 service and service learning the common expectation
17 and the common experience of all young people; and

18 WHEREAS, National Youth Service Day, a program of
19 Youth Service America, is the largest service event in
20 the world and is being observed for the 17th
21 consecutive year in 2005; and

22 WHEREAS, National Youth Service Day, with the
23 support of 50 lead agencies, hundreds of grant
24 winners, and thousands of local partners, engages
25 millions of young people nationwide; and

26 WHEREAS, National Youth Service Day will involve
27 114 national partners, including eight federal
28 agencies and 10 organizations that are offering grants
29 to support National Youth Service Day; and

30 WHEREAS, National Youth Service Day has inspired

1 Global Youth Service Day, which occurs concurrently in
2 over 120 countries and is now in its sixth year; and

3 WHEREAS, young people will benefit greatly from
4 expanded opportunities to engage in meaningful
5 volunteer service and service learning; NOW THEREFORE,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
7 recognizes and commends the significant contributions
8 of American youth and encourages the cultivation of a
9 common civic bond among young people dedicated to
10 serving their neighbors, their communities, the state,
11 and the nation; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate recognizes
13 April 15, 2005, as "National Youth Service Day" and
14 calls on the people of Iowa to observe the day by
15 encouraging youth to participate in civic and
16 community service projects, recognize the volunteer
17 efforts of our state's young people throughout the
18 year, and support these efforts and engage youth in
19 meaningful decision-making opportunities today as an
20 investment in the future of our state and nation.

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