

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5036

By Representatives Rehorn and Patterson, Ballard, Barbieri-Lightner, Bethell, Boyer, Burroughs, Campbell, Cox, DeCastro, Gatewood, Gilbert, Gordon, Hayzlett, Horst, Huff, Hutchins, Kirk, Loganbill, Merrick, Jim Morrison, Judy Morrison, Neighbor, Ostmeyer, B. Sharp, S. Sharp, Sloan, Thimesch, Toelkes, Ward, Yonally

2-11

13 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Kansas State Board of
14 Education to expand community service and service learning programs
15 for increased youth volunteer service to enhance appreciation of the
16 needs of elderly persons.

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18 WHEREAS, Community service and service learning programs pro-
19 vide Kansas citizens services that strengthen our communities; and

20 WHEREAS, Community service and service learning programs pro-
21 vide Kansas students important knowledge of and involvement in serving
22 the needs of Kansans; and

23 WHEREAS, The Legislature enacted K.S.A. 72-1126 which requires
24 the State Board of Education to provide for a community service program
25 to be offered to all accredited high schools in this state; and

26 WHEREAS, The community service program in Kansas is defined as
27 a program of service performed by high school students, without mone-
28 tary compensation or remuneration, for the purpose of benefitting the
29 students' community; and

30 WHEREAS, The services performed under the community service
31 program may include, but are not limited to, mentoring or tutoring ele-
32 mentary school pupils, assisting persons in nursing homes or adult care
33 centers, providing lawn care or performing other tasks for senior citizens
34 or disabled persons, assisting in homeless shelters or soup kitchens, or-
35 ganizing or assisting in fund raisers for disaster victims and other needy
36 persons, assisting community-based nonprofit agencies that provide pro-
37 grams and services for low-income people, the disabled and the elderly,
38 assisting fraternal organizations in charitable activities; and

39 WHEREAS, Research findings show that community service and serv-
40 ice learning programs benefit students by boosting academic achieve-
41 ment, fostering a lifetime commitment to civic participation, improving
42 social skills, and preparing students to enter the workforce; and

43 WHEREAS, By teaching young people that they can and should play

1 a positive role in their community, community service and service learn-
2 ing programs encourage life-long civic participation and gives students a
3 sense of competency; they see themselves as active contributors rather
4 than passive recipients of adult support; and

5 WHEREAS, Community service and service learning programs also
6 help address real community needs, build stronger connections between
7 schools and communities and improve the overall school climate; and

8 WHEREAS, The State of Kansas has a fast growing population of eld-
9 erly residents and the need for assistance and community-based services
10 for older Kansans continues to grow; and

11 WHEREAS, The assistance and services provided to elderly Kansans
12 by students through community service and service learning programs
13 meet significant needs for such assistance and services and participation
14 in such programs enhance the knowledge, awareness and appreciation of
15 the needs of elderly persons in Kansas communities: Now, therefore,

16 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*
17 *the Senate concurring therein:* That the Kansas State Board of Educa-
18 tion provide increased support for community service and service learning
19 programs to enhance appreciation of the needs of elderly persons.