

Resolution No.

The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor of New York

Mayor Cicilline
City of Providence

The Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa
Mayor of Los Angeles

The Honorable Sheila Dixon
Mayor of Baltimore

Mayor Jerry Abramson
Mayor of Louisville

SUPPORTING FAMILY LITERACY

1. **WHEREAS**, the correlation between income and education has been clearly documented; low education levels combined with low income lead to higher mortality and poorer health, higher incarceration and lower workforce participation; and
2. **WHEREAS**, tens of millions of American adults are unable to apply basic reading, writing, and math skills in adult life contexts and millions more are only marginally literate; and
3. **WHEREAS**, one in five American workers reads at an eighth-grade level or below; and
4. **WHEREAS**, in professions such as health care, retail trade, construction and transportation where employment is rapidly increasing, there will be a greater demand for a better educated, more prepared workforce; and
5. **WHEREAS**, the gap between workforce skills and the demands of a 21st century economy will increase exponentially and the cost to the economy in lower productivity and lost production will be astronomical; and
6. **WHEREAS**, the United States is a nation of immigrants, comprising of more than 35 million residents born outside the United States; and

7. **WHEREAS**, eighteen percent of U.S. households speak a language other than English at home; and
8. **WHEREAS**, Family literacy is a proven intergenerational approach that improves the literacy, language and life skills of both parents and children; and
9. **WHEREAS**, Family Literacy programs offer the promise for helping to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and low literacy in the Nation; and
10. **WHEREAS**, Family Literacy programs:
are a unique and holistic approach that support families most in need, provide a comprehensive, integrated intergeneration literacy program of services that integrates: early childhood education, adult education for parents, and interactive literacy activities between parents and their children; and training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children; and
11. **WHEREAS**, children who grow up in "literacy rich" households - environments where they observe the people around them using their reading, writing and communication skills have a demonstrated head start in school; and
12. **WHEREAS**, research establishes that children participating in Family Literacy programs come to school better prepared, attend school more regularly, achieve higher standardized test scores in reading, language, and math, and are more likely to complete their education; and
13. **WHEREAS**, children whose parents are involved, do better in school and are much more likely to succeed,
14. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends that federal, state, and local governments expand their support for Family Literacy Programs; and
15. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to authorize and designate appropriations for Family Literacy Programs.

Projected Cost: Unknown