

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997
4 By: Senator Beebe

S.C.R. 16

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING CONTINUED FEDERAL FUNDING OF THE ARKANSAS
NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CORPS CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Subtitle

SUPPORTING CONTINUED FEDERAL FUNDING OF
THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CORPS
CHALLENGE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Arkansas National Guard Youth Corps Challenge Program has provided 569 sixteen to eighteen year old graduates of the program with critically needed academic, vocational, and life skills education and training; and

WHEREAS, the Challenge Program, through its military discipline and structure, has installed in its graduates self-confidence, self-esteem, and good citizenship skills; and

WHEREAS, the Challenge Program provides Arkansas's at-risk youth (high school dropouts) with an opportunity to become successful, productive citizens of the state and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Challenge Program is an important, cost-effective crime and poverty prevention program worthy of continued support by the government of the United States; and

WHEREAS, 85% of the graduates of the Challenge Program are either employed, in school, or in higher education; and

WHEREAS, of the 569 graduates of the Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program only three young people (one-half of one percent) have entered the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, of all high school dropouts, 80% to 85% will enter the criminal justice system (in 1995, 7,620 students dropped out of grades seven through twelve); and

1 WHEREAS, the cost of Youth Challenge preventing one high school dropout
2 from entering the criminal justice system is approximately twelve thousand
3 dollars (\$12,000) per student, including food shelter, clothing, and medical
4 care); and

5 WHEREAS, the cost of incarceration is in excess of thirty-two thousand
6 dollars (\$32,000) per year; and

7 WHEREAS, the average Youth Challenge student who returns to the public
8 school system has improved his or her overall academic performance and
9 increased 2.2 academic years over his or her dropout status; and

10 WHEREAS, Youth Challenge has the highest GED pass rate for at-risk youth
11 of any program in the state; and

12 WHEREAS, federal funding for the Challenge Program is scheduled to end
13 in September 1998.

14

15 NOW THEREFORE,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE
17 OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

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19 THAT the Arkansas General Assembly supports continued federal funding
20 for the Arkansas National Guard Youth Corps Challenge Program.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Arkansas General Assembly urges the
22 United States Congress to continue funding for the Arkansas National Guard
23 Youth Corps Challenge Program and urges the President of the United States to
24 support the funding.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution shall be sent to
26 the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Al
27 Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the United
28 States Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the
29 United States Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the United
30 States House of Representatives; the Honorable Dale Bumpers and the Honorable
31 Tim Hutchinson, United States Senators; and the Honorable Jay Dickey, the
32 Honorable Vic Snyder, the Honorable Marion Berry, and the Honorable Asa
33 Hutchinson, United States Representatives, members of the Arkansas delegation
34 in Congress.

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