

Rep. Hammel offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 400.

A resolution memorializing the United States Congress to enact the Keeping Parents and Communities Engaged (Keeping PACE) Act.

Whereas, The value of parental and community support in promoting student achievement has long been recognized. In 1935, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation gave the Flint Public Schools \$6,000 with which to institute community education, thus beginning the community education movement in this country. The state of Michigan has been and continues to be a supporter and a leader in the field of community education and after-school programming nationally; and

Whereas, Studies indicate that students who participate in high quality after-school programs in combination with other community activities demonstrate significant gains in standardized math and reading test scores. The research shows that regular participation in after-school programs is associated with improvements in work habits and task persistence; and

Whereas, Extra time for academics by itself may be necessary, but may not be sufficient, to improve academic outcomes. Academic support should be balanced with a variety of engaging, fun, and structured extracurricular or co-curricular activities that promote youth development in a variety of real-world contexts that support and improve academic performance; and

Whereas, On May 3, 2008, S. 1302 was introduced in the United State Senate to amend Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. If enacted, this bill would encourage and support parent, family, and community involvement in schools; provide needed integrated services and comprehensive support to children; and ensure that schools are centers of communities, for the ultimate goal of assisting students to stay in school, become successful learners, and improve academic achievement; and

Whereas, This legislation would provide funding for local school districts to hire parent and community outreach coordinators; assist community-based organizations to support students, their local schools and their families; and develop consortia of schools, school districts, city governments and local nonprofits to assist in renovating school facilities to more effectively use them as community centers; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the United States Congress to enact the Keeping Parents and Communities Engaged (Keeping PACE) Act; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.