



# UNITED STATES SENATE

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## **Cornyn and Booker Introduce Family Service Learning Resolution**

*Legislation Designates September 12 – 16, 2016 as National Family Service Week*

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) and Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), along with Senators Gary Peters (D-MI), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) introduced a resolution recognizing the importance of Family Service Learning and designating the week of September 12 through 16, 2016 as National Family Service Week.

**“When we invest in families, the entire community benefits and grows,”** said Sen. Cornyn. **“Family Service Learning opens up new opportunities that will empower parents and children alike to benefit from the gift of education and the opportunity of community involvement.”**

**“I am proud to join my colleagues in introducing this bipartisan resolution to celebrate the importance of Family Service Learning and its impact in communities across the country. This learning model has enabled communities like Camden, New Jersey, to prioritize programs that invest in family literacy,”** Sen. Booker said. **“Together, we can and must invest in our young people by engaging communities and families holistically. When families thrive, communities thrive.”**

**“Empowering families to learn together and give back can yield tremendous benefits for our communities,”** said Sen. Peters. **“Family service learning can help parents and children build new skills and strengthen their community involvement by supporting a range of projects that help promote financial literacy, volunteer service and civic engagement.”**

**“This model has proven to help parents advance in the workplace, help children learn, and provide a much-needed boost to underserved communities. I’m proud of the great Family Service Learning happening in Rhode Island and it’s important to spread the word about a model that works,”** said Whitehouse.

*Background on Family Service Learning:*

Family Service learning is a model under which children and families learn together in service of their community in an effort to build stronger communities, while providing an additional recourse to combat the educational challenges facing low-income and minority families. These programs help develop college and career readiness skills for children, and relevant workforce training skills for adults.

Over [40 percent of parents](#) whose families graduate from these programs get promoted or find a better job. Family Service Learning has been implemented in 20 communities nationwide with plans to expand.

Family Service Learning projects include:

- Building 20 “Little Free Libraries” around the community of Plano, TX to help improve the availability of reading materials and stress the importance of reading together as a family.
- Creating sustainable community gardens in Detroit, MI to help provide quality meals for homeless families and teach families the importance of good nutrition.
- Coordinating a safety walk with police and local residents in the Bronx, NY to improve community safety and foster positive and open relations.

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