

Senator Richardville offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 103.

A resolution to memorialize Congress to enact the Investment in Rural Afterschool Programs Act.

Whereas, The importance of quality after-school care for our young people and our communities is well-documented. Increased safety, better performance in academics, more appropriate peer relationships, and far lower rates of delinquency all reflect both the short- and long-term impact of programs for students after the school day's last bell; and

Whereas, Rural areas of our state and nation face some unique challenges in the development and maintenance of after-school programs. These problems include high transportation costs, a lack of private partnership opportunities, limited community facilities, and the potential for more difficulties in training and retaining skilled staff. In more remote parts of our state, there may also be added issues related to longer distances parents may have to travel to jobs; and

Whereas, Legislation pending in Congress, the Investment in Rural Afterschool Programs Act (S. 1281 and H.R. 3078), would implement a grant program to enable rural communities to overcome the formidable barriers to creating and operating effective care options. This wide-ranging legislation would address transportation, professional development and training, access to technology, recruitment and retention of staff, and planning, as well as other key components of after-school care, such as nutrition and the encouragement of public-private partnerships. With almost 3 million young people in rural areas living in poverty, this is an issue that demands attention; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize Congress to enact the Investment in Rural Afterschool Programs 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.