

***Resolution Honoring the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Guard  
Youth Challenge Program***

Senators Baldwin (D-WI) and Capito (R-WV)

**This resolution recognizes the National Guard Youth Challenge Program’s thirty years of successfully developing at-risk youth in our communities, commends the accomplishments of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program graduates over the past thirty years in their lives and communities and reaffirms the Senate’s commitment to continued support of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program and its critical role in the disciplined, character focused development of our nation’s most at risk youth.**

**Purpose:** To commemorate the National Guard Youth Challenge Program’s (NGYCP) thirty years of successful, free, and alternative education and structured discipline for at-risk youth between the ages of 16 and 18. NGYP has thirty-nine Youth Challenge Program locations in twenty-eight states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico, and has been responsible for the graduation of over 200,000 Youth Challenge and Job Challenge Program participants. Additionally, since 1993 the program has been responsible for over credentialing over 184,000 cadets (credentials are defined as High School Equivalency Diploma, High School Diploma, High School Credit, College Credit, Job Certifications and Apprenticeships). NGYCP offers an opportunity to succeed outside of traditional high school environments for over 8,000 cadets annually.

**Background:** The NGYCP was born from the visionary concepts of utilizing a “whole person” intervention model to assist a generation of youth effected by gangs, violence, high dropout rates, and drug abuse. The program, which is funded through a Department of Defense-state cost-share, offers a unique opportunity for at-risk youth to change their course at a critical time in their lives. The multi-phased NGYCP utilizes quasi-military discipline and training coupled with character development, resilience, educational instruction, learning, and mentorship. A five-and-a-half-month residential program focuses on the eight core components of life coping skills, leadership/followership, service to community, job skills, academic excellence, responsible citizenship, health/hygiene and physical education. A follow-on, post-residential twelve-month mentoring phase builds upon those core components to help shape graduates into productive citizens ready for societal success.

**Colead:** Senator Capito

**Cosponsors:** Senators Cassidy, Rosen, Tester, Crapo, Risch and Daines

**Locations with a Challenge Program Academy:**

Alaska	Kentucky (2)	Oklahoma
Arkansas	Louisiana (3)	Oregon
California (3)	Maryland	Pennsylvania
District of Columbia	Michigan	Puerto Rico
Florida	Mississippi	South Carolina
Georgia (2)	Montana	Texas
Hawaii (2)	Nevada	Virginia
Idaho	New Jersey	Washington
Illinois	New Mexico	Wisconsin
Indiana	North Carolina (2)	West Virginia (2)