

A RESOLUTION

17-533

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

February 5, 2008

To declare the sense of the Council in support of establishing the United States of America's first National Civilian University in the District.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Sense of the Council in Support of Establishing the United States of America's First National Civilian University in our Nation's Capital Resolution of 2008".

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

(1) The United States Congress is currently exploring legislation introduced in the Senate by Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), and a companion bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Jim Moran (D-VA) and Representative Christopher Shays (R-CT) to establish the United States Public Service Academy ("Academy"), and the legislation now has over 100 co-sponsors, including Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC).

(2) In the wake of tragedies such as Hurricane Katrina, the nation recognized the need to create an undergraduate institution designed to cultivate a new generation of young Americans dedicated to public service. This institution is particularly timely because the Congressional Budget Office reports that 44% of all federal workers become eligible to retire over the next 5 years.

(3) The Academy is anticipated to be modeled after our military service academies by providing service-oriented, leadership-focused education for approximately 5,000 undergraduate students. Thus, it will become the flagship institution for public leadership.

(4) The Academy is anticipated to cost approximately \$205 million annually, and will be funded through federal-private partnerships, with Congress appropriating approximately \$16 million.

(5) The District is the ideal place to establish the Academy because of our close, unique relationship with the federal government, which will further the national and global mission of the Academy. As the seat of the federal government, the District offers opportunities that would be invaluable to Academy students. These opportunities include internships where

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students would be able to get hands-on experience in public service, partnerships with federal and local government agencies that could provide speakers and visiting professors for Academy classes, and easy access to research materials and subjects.

(6) Establishing the Academy in the District will help foster an environment of service in our city. As a service-oriented institution, the Public Service Academy will require faculty, staff, and students to work with District schools, recreation centers, health-outreach programs, and other District service agencies to address important needs in our communities.

Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that the Public Service Academy is a necessary institution to encourage and teach the virtues of public service, both nationally and globally, and that the Academy should be established in the District because of its ideal location.

Sec. 4. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate, and to the Mayor.

Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.