

***Resolution Honoring the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program (S.Res.424)***

**Introduced by Senator Tammy Baldwin and Senator David Purdue**

**Purpose:** To commemorate the National Guard Youth Challenge Program’s (NGYCP) 25 years of successful, free, and alternative education and structured discipline for at-risk youth between the ages of 16 and 18. The forty current programs spanning twenty eight states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia have been responsible for the graduation of more than 160,000 cadets and the awarding of over 110,000 academic credentials. NGYCP offers an opportunity to succeed outside of traditional high school environments for over 10,000 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.

Locations with a NGYCP academy:

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

**Section by Section:**

Sec. 1: Recognizes the National Guard Youth Challenge Program’s twenty-five years of successfully developing at-risk youth in our communities.

Sec. 2: Commends the accomplishments of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program graduates over the past quarter of a century in their lives and communities.

Sec. 3: 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.