

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 98

Designating the week beginning October 17, 1999, and the week beginning
October 15, 2000, as “National Character Counts Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 1999

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. FRIST, Mr. DORGAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BURNS, Mr. KOHL, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DEWINE, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOND, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. REID, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. GREGG, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BYRD, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. GORTON, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LOTT, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MACK, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. BIDEN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. MOYNIHAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JUNE 10, 1999

Reported by Mr. HATCH, without amendment

JUNE 29, 1999

Considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating the week beginning October 17, 1999, and the
week beginning October 15, 2000, as “National Character Counts Week”.

Whereas young people will be the stewards of our communities, the United States, and the world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of our society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas concerns about the character training of children have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by and against youth threatens the physical and psychological well-being of people of the United States;

Whereas more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character, and that character counts in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play a very important role in supporting family efforts by fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas the Senate encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the valuable

role our youth play in the present and future of the United States and to recognize that character is an important part of that future;

Whereas in July 1992, the Aspen Declaration was written by an eminent group of educators, youth leaders, and ethics scholars for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework for character education appropriate to a diverse and pluralistic society;

Whereas the Aspen Declaration states, “Effective character education is based on core ethical values which form the foundation of democratic society.”;

Whereas the core ethical values identified by the Aspen Declaration constitute the 6 core elements of character;

Whereas the 6 core elements of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship;

Whereas the 6 core elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the Aspen Declaration states, “The character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model the core ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character.”;

Whereas the Senate encourages individuals and organizations, especially those who have an interest in the education and training of our youth, to adopt the 6 core elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society as a whole; and

Whereas the Senate encourages communities, especially schools and youth organizations, to integrate the 6 core

elements of character into programs serving students and children: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) proclaims the week beginning October 17,
3 1999, and the week beginning October 15, 2000, as
4 “National Character Counts Week”; and

5 (2) requests that the President issue a procla-
6 mation calling upon the people of the United States
7 and interested groups to—

8 (A) embrace the 6 core elements of char-
9 acter identified by the Aspen Declaration, which
10 are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fair-
11 ness, caring, and citizenship; and

12 (B) observe the week with appropriate
13 ceremonies and activities.

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