

SENATE RESOLUTION 103—TO PROCLAIM NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. NUNN, Mr. DODD, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 103

Whereas young people will be the stewards of our communities, nation, and world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of 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 the United States;

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

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

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 youth-influencing institutions and individuals to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, efforts by religious institutions, 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 youth in the United States play in the present and future of the United States, and to recognize that character plays an important role in the future of the United States;

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 that "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, justice and fairness, caring, and civic virtue and citizenship.

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

Whereas the Aspen declaration states that "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 the individuals

and organizations that 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 school and youth organizations, to integrate the 6 core elements of character into programs serving students and children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate proclaims the week of October 15 through October 21, 1995, as National Character Counts Weeks, and requests the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to embrace the 6 core elements of character and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today in the City of Roswell, NM, the water bills that are sent out by the utility companies has this on them, and everyone will receive this as part of their water bill in this city: "Character counts. Trustworthiness. Tell the truth. Be sincere."

One of the six pillars of character established by a broad-based coalition some 2½ years ago, a broad-based group of Americans, was trustworthiness. That means do not lie, be sincere, tell the truth—all the basic things that we thought were part of the character of America.

In addition, five other pillars of character were determined to be the essence—the essence—of the character of the United States in the past that we have lost and that we must get back. The remaining ones are respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Today, on the floor of the Senate, a number of Senators have joined me in a Character Counts Coalition, which has in the U.S. Senate one principal objective; that is, the introduction and passage of a resolution which will set aside the week of October 15 through the 21 as "National Character Counts Week."

That resolution will be adopted by the Senate and the House, and it will go out into the land—hopefully, the President will speak to it—and the budding, blooming, blossoming enthusiasm among the people to reinject into society these six pillars of character will, once again, get a spurt of support from us.

But far more important than the 10 Senators—five from each party: Senator NUNN joining me as vice chair, Senator DODD, Senator COCHRAN, Senator MIKULSKI, Senator BENNETT, Senator LIEBERMAN, Senator KEMPTHORNE and Senator DORGAN and Senator FRIST, who is on the floor, join me in this resolution.

What is going on out there in the country? First of all, Mr. President, I am very, very proud that the State of New Mexico is moving into the forefront of States that are trying to build a broad-based community support for these six pillars of character. I am very pleased to suggest that in New Mexico, there are now four cities that, with their school boards, are moving in har-

mony to make these six pillars of character part of daily life, believe it or not, on a volunteer basis.

Public schools in the State of New Mexico are saying to their teachers, "Let's make these six pillars of character part of our daily curriculum." In fact, in the city of Albuquerque, 36 teachers have been trained so that they can begin to put into the curriculum of our grade schools instruction, activities, examples of these six pillars of character. As a matter of fact, there is sort of a model evolving out of New Mexico, wherein a public school will take one of these pillars of character by the month. And so in a month, it will be trustworthiness month and the children will work on it with their teachers and the teachers will work among themselves to let trustworthiness permeate the school and what it means truly counts. Maybe the next month they will do responsibility, and for a month responsibility will permeate the classroom.

Now we are trying to go one step further, Mr. President, and let these permeate the community, so that in each of our cities, there is a broad-based council—all volunteers, from all walks of life and all institutions—who are building a format to get each of these pillars of character to permeate the community in one way or another.

I just gave an example of this very interesting city, Roswell, which has already decided to put the first of the pillars on their electric or water bills. I do not remember which. If I said water bill, let us stay with it. But essentially, everybody will receive in the mail at least a little notice: "Character counts. Trustworthiness. Tell the truth. Be sincere."

Think if this happens, if we are able to join the people of this country, the grassroots of this country in our cities and in our States to mobilize their enthusiasm to get this message across to our children, to our businessmen, to their employees, to those who take care of our families or the families themselves, we may indeed—not this Senator, and not the 10 who are joining on this resolution—but those who had the idea to begin with and those who are working hard at it in the communities, this may turn into a huge chorus to be followed by actions to be followed by change, wherein maybe—maybe—society, which is yearning for something, will end up saying maybe it is we want people to be responsible, maybe it is that we want our people to learn what fairness is, what respect is, what responsibility is, what caring is and, yes, in a broader concept of what citizenship is.

Now, frankly, in the State of New Mexico, the city of Albuquerque, we have now put a major manual together which other cities are asking for as to how we did this.

Who got together and formed the counsel? How did the school board get involved? How are the schools reacting to it? Most of all, how are the parents

reacting to it? Is there any antagonism towards it? We would like to say we have found none.

Who will stand up and say that it is not right that we put back into our schools the concept of trustworthiness or responsibility or caring or respect. Nobody yet has done that. We think that these words are acceptable to everyone.

Everyone knows they would like to see this back into the fabric of this country. In my own State, the Governor has decided that Character Counts Will be a major effort of him and his wife in their term.

In the city of Albuquerque, I was joined by the mayor, and Albuquerque has declared itself the character community. Soon they will put forth a public relations campaign, joined by the media, we hope, which will try to make this pervasive within the community of Albuquerque.

Every city can do this, not because of the 10 Senators, and maybe 70, who will join this resolution and help pass it, but because we are merely supporting the effort which is budding among our people for something different in the classroom, something different on the street corner, something different in our businesses. There is much enthusiasm for this as one of those rare possibilities.

I do not claim to be either the inventor of this or the one that dreamt it up. What I am very proud of is that I saw it, and joined with other Senators to at least lend our support in the U.S. Congress to designating a week in our country when we thoroughly respect and help promote those in our country who are talking about the six pillars of character, and that character counts.

I have a statement which quotes a number of columnists and journalists in my State, editorials of the major papers, placing greater emphasis on common values that have served America so well. It is worth the extra effort that this will involve. There is no other practical way to make children safe and at the same time fight the violence, drugs, disrespect for property rights and others, speaking of this program of Character Counts, Albuquerque Journal.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the resolution submitted by my distinguished colleague Senator DOMENICI, Senate Resolution 103. This resolution, which would designate the week of October 15-21, 1995, as the second annual National Character Counts Week.

Last year I joined with Senator DOMENICI and several of our other colleagues in introducing similar legislation, and was very pleased that the proposal was extremely well-received by my colleagues, as well as people in New Mexico, Georgia, and throughout our Nation. This resolution represents a renewal of that effort.

This group of our Senate colleagues has come together again this year to continue its recognition of the fact

that our Nation is experiencing a crisis of values. This crisis is reflected in the rising tide of violence that kills little children in the cross-fire on school yards and in front of their houses, in the increasing number of children who kill each other and others. This crisis goes beyond crime. It is reflected, also, in the recent survey of youngsters conducted by the Josephson Institute of Ethics. These ordinary youngsters may never be involved in crime, drug abuse, or teenage pregnancy, but they still acknowledge disturbing ethical lapses: 2 out of 5 high school age boys and one in four girls have stolen something from a store; nearly two-thirds of all high school students and one-third of all college students had cheated on an exam, and more than one-third of males and one-fifth of females aged 19-24 said they would lie to get a job and nearly one-fifth of college students had already done so in the last year; 21 percent said they would falsify a report to keep a job.

As a character in John Steinbeck's novel "Of Mice and Men" complained, "Nothing is wrong anymore." Unfortunately, a lot is wrong, and our society seems reluctant to admit the problem.

This is the core message of character counts, that there are core values that our society agrees on and that should guide our decisionmaking. These values, as set out in the resolution, are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. These values are supported by an extremely broad and diverse coalition of people, including former Secretary of Education William Bennett, former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, actor-producer Tom Selleck, and Children's Defense Fund Founder Marian Wright Edelman. Among our colleagues, Senators with such diverse political viewpoints as Senator HELMS and Senator BOXER consponsored last year's resolution. I come before the Senate today on behalf of this group to urge continued attention to this important problem.

We must remember that all those children who are never taught the values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship are future citizens.

This is a resolution considered by Members of the Senate and House in Washington, DC. But it is the parents, teachers, coaches, ministers, big brothers and sisters in local communities who will lead the fight for values in our Nation. As a result of the efforts by the character counts coalition, people in all areas of the country are more aware of the problems we face, and have begun to incorporate these values into their everyday lives and those of their children. Senator DOMENICI has outlined some of these efforts. This year, we introduce this resolution to remind the Senate that the work on this issue is far from over, and again to enlist their support in reinstating these values to their proper places as fundamental to our society. I am proud to join my colleagues, especially Senator DO-

MENICI, in this effort once again, and I urge the Senate to support this resolution.

Mr. BENNETT. I thank the Chair and I thank the distinguished Senator from New Mexico.

He has taken this time this morning to talk about a project that he and the senior Senator from Georgia [Mr. NUNN] initiated in the 103rd Congress, of which I was delighted to be a member. This is the program called character counts, whereby we are talking on the floor of the Senate and in our home States about the six pillars of character which the Senator from New Mexico and the Senator from Georgia have outlined, along with others in the character counts coalition, others outside of Government. I will not review all of those details because they have been spread on the record, but I think it is appropriate for us to pause for a moment and talk about the impact that we have had with this effort.

As I have talked about this in my own home State, the reaction has been: "Why are you doing this? Why take the time to talk about something so much a cliché as character—character counts for our kids. Well, everybody is for that. It is like the old cliché, truth, justice and the American way coming out of the comic book character. We don't need to talk about that. Everybody agrees about that."

And then, as I talk about it, some more people begin to realize that maybe we do need to talk about it. Because bit by bit over the years, the American commitment to individual character, the American commitment to teaching individual character attributes to our children has diminished, not by design but more by inertia.

If you watch the television today, that being our principal source of entertainment and information, you find that references to character are constantly being eroded. For the sake of today's television drama, we glorify selfishness. For the sake of today's television action, we glorify someone who triumphs in a physical way out of a sense of selfishness, and cleverness and character and commitment and cooperation all seem to be disappearing.

What we have done with the character counts coalition is reintroduce into the national dialog those aspects of character that we ought to be talking about. Have we made a dramatic impact? No. Have we caused great national consciousness to rise on these issues? No. But have we begun to turn over one little pebble at a time in the great national mosaic references to selfishness and self-glory and turn them over to become references to cooperation and character? Yes. Over time, that is the slow, steady process that will change the mosaic, that will change the overall look of the national scene.

So we are in this, I say to the Senator and to the Senate as a whole, for the long term. We are in this to keep

this dialog going one stone at a time in the mosaic. When we view it in that fashion, I am very gratified by the progress we have made since the last Congress. As we keep the dialog going, as we keep the steady drumbeat going, we have hopes and, indeed, indication that we are succeeding in quietly and slowly turning around this debate.

So I hope that we can keep this up. I commend the Senator from New Mexico for his diligence and his persistence, and that in some future Congress, people will look back and say, "You know, it was slow and steady, but ultimately those people determined to inject character education into our national fabric have produced the long-term effects that they were hoping for."

Thus, Mr. President, I am delighted to be associated with this. I pledge myself to stay in for the long term, the way the Senator from New Mexico is in for the long term, and I have hope that in the long term we will see the deterioration of character that has been going on in this country for so long begin to turn around and change and go in the right direction.

I thank the Senator for his leadership and pledge my myself to this effort.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I yield 4 minutes to the Senator from Tennessee.

CHARACTER IS UNIVERSAL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to speak just for a few moments on character.

Last year, this body passed a resolution that formally endorsed the six character traits set forth in Aspen, CO, in 1992 by a group of scholars, educators, and youth advocates.

People with different backgrounds came together in Aspen in search of consensus on character. Despite their differences, they found that all could agree on those values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

Mr. President, consensus on character is possible because character is universal, because character counts. The stamp of character has always been unmistakable. We have seen it in our leaders, in people like Abraham Lincoln and Rosa Parks. We have seen it in our communities, in volunteers who give of their time, their energy, and their resources on behalf of those less fortunate.

We have all glimpsed the glory of character in our lifetimes. And in our heart of hearts, we know that the worth of character outweighs those fleeting benefits of cheap substitutes such as wealth and power.

Yet, throughout history, Mr. President, character has been under unrelenting assault. Today in this country, many of our children simply do not even know the meaning of the word. There are very few role models, very few heroes. Even here in Washington, where character should be synonymous

with leadership, many pursue less worthy goals.

The time has come, Mr. President, for those in Washington to stand up and up the ante. Battles have been lost but the war is far from over.

Having just spent every day of last year interacting with Tennesseans, traveling to every county throughout Tennessee, I can say that there is a hunger across America for community built on character.

We must teach our children, first by example, and then through lessons of the past, that character counts.

Today, I urge my colleague to renew their commitment to high personal standards, whatever the cost, and endorse this resolution. We were elected to do no less.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. DOMENICI. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President. Do I not have time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CAMPBELL). The Senator is correct. The Senator has 4 minutes and 15 seconds.

Mr. DOMENICI. I was going to yield the remainder of the time to Senator DORGAN, a new member of the coalition.

CHARACTER COUNTS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I am delighted to join my colleague from New Mexico on this resolution, proclaiming that character counts. A group of people in this body and in our country have put together an effort here that I think is important to our young people.

As I was thinking about coming over and talking about character today, I remembered something I read about an 11-year-old boy named Robert Sandifer. Robert is dead. He lies today in a coffin somewhere in the city of Chicago, killed by a bullet to the back of his head at age 11.

At that young age, Robert, who by then had 23 felony charges, was 4 feet 6 inches tall and weighed no more than about 85 pounds. He was buried with a stuffed animal in his casket, as family and friends said their goodbyes.

In Robert's 11 years, he lived the life of a hardened criminal. Yet, if we look at the rest of his life, when he was taken from his mother in 1986, State social workers found scars on his face, cord-like marks on his abdomen, and cigarette burns on his neck and his buttocks. He was a victim of substantial abuse, who turned to a life of crime and then was executed at the age of 11.

As we look at Robert's life, we can feel sorry for him for the abuse he suffered, but we shouldn't make excuses for his behavior. During the course of his young life, Robert had already committed substantial, violent criminal acts. And it seems to me, there comes a time when we need to stand up and say what he did was wrong, despite the reasons he might have had for turning to a life of crime.

Is Robert's story unusual? No, not really. Day after day, in city after city, we hear stories like this. And it breaks

your heart. Something is wrong in this country. Something is dramatically wrong, and we need to fix it.

How do we fix it? Well, we have to again begin teaching values and character in this country—in our homes, in our communities, in our schools, in our churches. We need to reinforce the importance of good moral character every day, in every way.

Edmund Burke once stated, "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing." Good people all across this country must look around and understand that, in many respects, our moral compass is off.

Two of our major growth industries in America are security and gambling. Those are the growth industries. If you want to get in on the ground floor and get a good job, work as a prison or security guard or for the gambling industry.

Or, for another indication of what's wrong in our country, turn on the television this morning; what do we see? We entertain ourselves by other people's dysfunctional behavior and portray it as normal. Oprah, Phil, Ricki, Geraldo—we amuse ourselves by watching all of this dysfunctional behavior.

What are our children to think, watching violence hour after hour, night after night, on television? The average child will see 8,000 murders on TV before leaving elementary school. What are our people, especially our young people, to think?

The effort called for in the character counts resolution is very simple. It is to say that all people, good people in this country, people in their homes and in their communities, in school after school across our country, need to, every day and in every way, teach our kids about certain basic values—about trustworthiness, about respect, about justice, about caring, about responsibility, about citizenship. It is our job to reinforce in every conceivable way those kinds of values in America's youth.

I understand that bad news travels halfway around the world before good news gets its shoes on. I understand all that. There is plenty of bad news and there are plenty of storm clouds in this country when we talk about American youth.

But I also recognize that there are many wonderful stories as well, about young people across our country doing well and caring and helping others, and we should reaffirm their efforts.

On the other hand, when we see and hear the gripping, wrenching stories of Robert Sandifer and others, we need to understand that these are things we can do something about.

Character counts is an effort, an educational effort and a citizenship effort all across this country, to say kids matter, values matter, character matters, and we can do something about it if we only work together and try. That is why I am pleased to join my colleague from New Mexico and others in

this Chamber as a sponsor of this resolution, and I hope we will pass this measure and give voice to this kind of initiative.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am pleased this morning to join with the distinguished Senator from New Mexico and a bipartisan group of my colleagues to submit this Senate Resolution designating October 15 through October 21, 1995, as National Character Counts Week.

One does not need a doctorate in sociology to know that something has gone terribly wrong for many young Americans. Teen pregnancy is exploding; violence by and against children is out of control; basic norms of civility have broken down in too many troubled communities.

Births to unwed women increased 70 percent between 1983 and 1993, according to the Census Bureau. Last year, one in four American children under 18 lived with a single parent who had never been married. Deaths of children due to homicide have tripled since 1960, becoming the fourth leading cause of death among children ages 1 to 9, the third leading cause for children 10 to 14, and the second leading cause of death for adolescents ages 15 to 19. The perpetrators of these crimes are very often other children.

A series of complex trends have caused these problems, and there are no easy solutions to them. Better education, prevention, and punishment, and help for families in trouble must all play a role. But we must also acknowledge that there is only so much government can do. An effective cure for the plagues devastating young America must include a large dose of individual responsibility and character building.

That is why I am so pleased to continue to be a part of the informal Senate Character Counts Coalition, led by Senator DOMENICI. My colleagues and I began last year to promote the idea of character education in our public schools as a part of the solution to the problems that plague young America. And we continue that effort today.

I believe that it is entirely appropriate for schools to teach students the importance of qualities like honesty, courage, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and loyalty. These ideals are not controversial, revolutionary concepts. They transcend individual religions and philosophies.

Education should be more than the transmission of facts. It should be more than the molding of an intellect. Education should help teach young people all they need to know to be full participants in our society. Strengthening the mind is not enough: We should also nurture the character.

While I believe this approach is common sense to most Americans, it has nonetheless raised eyebrows and concerns about the appropriate role of the schools. I believe these concerns are unfounded. Clearly, schools will never

replace the family. Parents and grandparents, churches, and synagogues should and will always be the primary influences on children's values and systems of belief. To promote character education is not to challenge those influences, but to complement them.

Character education is an idea whose time has come, and Congress has begun to recognize that fact. Last year's Improving America's Schools Act included several provisions that offer new support for character education. An amendment I offered to the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act provides local schools with more flexibility to use these Federal funds for character education.

During consideration by the full Senate of the same bill, Senator DOMENICI and I expanded on this effort by adopting an additional and distinct program to provide grants for States and local partnerships that want to implement character education programs. In addition, Congress also established the first National Character Counts Week, which was celebrated in schools and communities across the country.

Character education alone will obviously not solve this country's moral crisis or save young America. But it should certainly be part of any plan to help young America save itself.

For these reasons, I am very pleased to join once again with Senator DOMENICI, Senator NUNN, and others to submit this resolution to establish a 1995 National Character Counts Week. I hope my other colleagues will join us in supporting this and other character education efforts.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from New Mexico for being the organizer of the Character Counts Coalition here in the U.S. Senate.

We are men and women, Democrats and Republicans, from all geographic parts of the United States of America, and we are united with one voice today to talk about why character counts and why we need to instill these pillars of character in our public schools, our nonprofit organizations, and throughout the United States of America through every cultural method of communication.

Mr. President, we are 6 years from the year 2000. A new century is coming. A new millennium is about to be born. We in America need to ask ourselves, what will the United States of America be in the 21st century? Will we be a superpower? Yes. We will be a superpower because of our economic structure. We will be a superpower because of our military might. But we will also be a superpower because the people of the United States have been empowered by a set of values.

I believe the continuity that will sustain us between the centuries is our values. It is the core values that are expressed in the pillars of character, trustworthiness, fairness, justice and caring, civic virtue, and citizenship. These are the aspects of continuity

that will help us not only cope with change but to embrace change and lead us into the 21st century.

For some time, I have been concerned that in the United States of America we have gone from being a progressive society to being a permissive society. Instead of having character, you are rewarded if you are a character.

To that end, I have been concerned that we call celebrities heroes. I will tell you what a hero really is. It is a man or woman who makes significant personal sacrifice, maybe even risking their lives for a greater good with no personal gain.

Right now, there are foster mothers throughout the United States of America caring for children who are abused, caring for children who have AIDS. Those people are heroes.

They are willing to make personal sacrifices with no personal gain for the greater good. They are people with strong values.

They know they have a call to duty, a call to responsibility and understanding that for every right there is a responsibility, for every opportunity there is an obligation.

Mr. President, we need to keep advocating a society based on virtue and value and not a society where every aspect of our cultural communication regards and exploits violence and vulgarity. This is not what the United States is about, and this is not what built the United States of America.

What built America was virtue and value. Those are the ties that bind, the habits of the heart, neighbor helping neighbor, personal respect for yourself and respect for others.

This coalition wants to reinforce those values that have sustained America through good times and bad, through war and through peace. That is why I am advocating the Character Coalition and the inculcation of these values once again through our public schools and nonprofits.

My State of Maryland has been dedicated to character education. Over a decade ago, Blair Lee, a former Governor, had a values commission. Our Maryland attorney general encouraged values to be taught in the schools. We are now again moving on innovative character education programs.

In my own hometown of Baltimore, the public schools are making sure that character counts. In many of our schools and higher education facilities, they are looking at how to have institutes to be able to advocate character.

Mr. President, this initiative is important because we need to concentrate on community building and individual capacity among our young people so they can be part of a larger community. We need to be sure that we strengthen the American family and extend that to a larger community.

I am happy to lend my voice and my efforts for a cause that I believe transcends party and geographic lines because it is not only the laws on the books that help govern us as a society,

it is the laws you carry in your heart that govern your day to day behavior, and the way you react with one another, your neighbors, and the larger community. I believe the pillars of character count, and I am happy to be part of this coalition.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator DOMENICI and other cosponsors of this resolution designating the week of October 15, 1995, as Character Counts Week. This is the second year I have worked with a bipartisan group of Senators to promote character education. Our goal is to support the many Americans who are working to strengthen the moral fiber of our children through character education. The resolution specifically embraces six ethical values common to this diverse group of Senators and, we believe, to all Americans—trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

We are dedicated to instilling these six pillars of character in our youth. Too many forces in our society teach children to reject these values and too few individuals and institutions reinforce them. The media often glorifies deceitful, violent characters. The breakdown of the family has left many children without consistent caretakers and role models that can nourish their moral development. Even some government policies send the wrong message. Our current welfare system, for example, fosters dependency rather than responsibility and self-sufficiency.

This resolution reflects our support for the education, community, and religious organizations that are working at the grassroots level to promote character education. As politicians we should reinforce their efforts wherever we can. Too often politicians are wary of using their position and the law to reinforce specific moral objectives for fear of weakening the separation of church and state. But the laws society enacts and observes are ultimately expressions of values. They serve as a moral structure for our civilization. We cannot and should not downplay this connection.

This resolution will help reinforce the importance of developing our children's character and will add momentum to the many character education programs underway today. I am committed to working with my colleagues to find other ways to build character education into public and private programs through our political leadership and legislative work.

SENATE RESOLUTION 104— RELATIVE TO S. 676

Mr. GRAMS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S.RES. 104

Resolved, That the bill S. 676 entitled "A bill for the relief of D.W. Jacobson, Ronald Karkala, and Paul Bjorgen of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, and for other purposes." is referred, with all accompanying papers, to the chief justice of the United States Court of

Federal Claims for a report in accordance with sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code.

SENATE RESOLUTION 103— RELATIVE TO IRAN

Mr. D'AMATO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S.RES. 105

Whereas, an estimated crowd of 100,000 Iranian people assembled in Southern Teheran on April 4, 1995 to protest sharp price increases and a shortage of water, and other important staples of daily life;

Whereas, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and the Bassidj, a political militia, have been granted the right to "shoot-to-kill" in order to quell disturbances;

Whereas, these force, supplemented by armed helicopter gunships, on April 14, 1995, opened fire on the demonstrators killing as many as 150 people, thereby ending the protest: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the Sense of the Senate that the President should—

Immediately condemn this brutal suppression of a crowd of protesters resulting in the death of as many as 150 people by the Government of Iran and instruct the United States Ambassador to the United Nations to bring this matter before the United Nations Security Council with the intent of pursuing a Security Council condemnation of Iran.

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I submit a sense-of-the-Senate resolution condemning the violent suppression of a protest in Southern Teheran yesterday by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and the political militia. The protesters were demonstrating against the doubling of public transportation, gasoline, basic foodstuffs, and drinking water.

When the protesters gathered in the morning of April 4, 1995, their numbers were few. By the afternoon, the crowd swelled to over 100,000. According to Iranfax, a daily brief on Iranian affairs, the crowd overwhelmed police who were shooting tear gas at them and seized their weapons. As the protests spread to other districts in Teheran, the Government called out the Revolutionary Guards and the Bassidj, a political militia, to quell the riots.

Soon, helicopter gunships and troops arrived and began to fire into the crowds. According to the latest reports, at least 150 people died in the attacks. We have no way of knowing how many were injured. Owing to the order of last year that allowed for a shoot-to-kill policy by government troops against civilians, this outcome should have been expected.

Nor should this be surprising because it came from this terrorist regime. Any government willing to do this to its own people, will have no qualms about killing and maiming foreigners. This is why Iran is so dangerous.

This resolution is simple. It requests that the President immediately condemn this brutal act and instruct the United States Ambassador to the United Nations to bring this matter before the Security Council with the intent of pursuing a Security Council condemnation of Iran.

Mr. President, we cannot allow Iran to slaughter its people. This brutal regime has abused the human rights of so many people, inside its country and outside. The time for their atrocious abuses to end is now.

I hope that my colleagues join me in support of this important resolution. •

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND RESCIS- SIONS ACT

INOUYE AMENDMENT NO. 453

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. INOUYE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (H.R. 1158) making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes; as follows:

In chapter V of title I, under the heading "CONSTRUCTION" under the heading "SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION" under the heading "OTHER RELATED AGENCIES" strike "": *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act shall not apply to any contract associated with the construction of facilities for the National Museum of the American Indian."

WELLSTONE AMENDMENTS NOS. 454-456

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. WELLSTONE submitted three amendments intended to be proposed by him to amendment No. 420 proposed by Mr. HATFIELD to the bill (H.R. 1158), supra; as follows:

AMENDMENT No. 454

On page 31, strike lines 10 through 13.
On page 55, line 4, strike "\$4,800,000,000" and insert "\$4,758,000,000".

AMENDMENT No. 455

On page 31, strike lines 14 through 18.
On page 55, line 4, strike "\$4,800,000,000" and insert "\$4,758,000,000".

AMENDMENT No. 456

On page 6, strike lines 8 through 13.
On page 55, line 4, strike "\$4,800,000,000" and insert "\$4,765,000,000".

PACKWOOD AMENDMENT NO. 457

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. PACKWOOD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to amendment No. 420 proposed by Mr. HATFIELD to the bill (H.R. 1158), supra; as follows:

At the appropriate place add the following new section:

SEC. . . Nothing in section 204 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4) shall be construed to affect the applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) to meetings between Federal, State, and tribal officials