

H. Res. 161

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

April 29, 2003.

Whereas Operation Respect is a nonprofit organization engaged in a national effort to transform participating schools, after-school programs, and children's summer camps into more compassionate and respectful environments through its "Don't Laugh At Me" program materials that address the issues of emotional and physical violence among children;

Whereas Operation Respect has conducted 230 workshops, reaching over 18,000 educators in 27 States and distributing 50,000 copies of its professionally developed curriculum;

Whereas representatives of this organization have appeared before over 240 educational organizations in 36 States on behalf of Operation Respect, as well as before the Republican conference and Democratic caucus of the United States House of Representatives;

Whereas the "Don't Laugh At Me" program increases mutual respect and fellowship among hundreds of thousands of elementary school children, creating an environment for students that improves focus on academic achievement and encourages an atmosphere of respect and responsibility;

Whereas the “Don’t Laugh At Me” camp programs have made the environment at summer camps safer and more secure for children by creating a greater sense of responsibility, justice and fairness;

Whereas the “Don’t Laugh At Me” programs have made a significant impact on schools and camps through a curriculum of character education and social and emotional learning;

Whereas the overwhelming majority of students participating in a recent survey concluded that the “Don’t Laugh At Me” program was a valuable and beneficial experience and resulted in a diminution of negative behaviors such as bullying, and increased openness and trust;

Whereas counselors and campers alike who participated in the “Don’t Laugh At Me” programs agreed that the programs were effective, enjoyable, and positively influenced the academic and character education of the children;

Whereas the success of Operation Respect and the “Don’t Laugh At Me” programs has been recognized by the National Conference of State Legislatures and various educational associations, including the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the American Association of School Administrators, the Council of Great City Colleges of Education, the National Education Association, the Council of Great City Schools, the American School Counselors Association, the National School Boards Association, the National Middle School Association, and the American Federation of Teachers; and

Whereas the National Conference of State Legislatures passed a resolution on August 12, 2001, encouraging

funding and other support from States for professional development of educators in this arena and recognizing the contributions of Operation Respect in advancing State legislative initiatives to expand social and emotional learning and character education programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Operation Respect and the “Don’t Laugh At Me” program are commended for their major contributions to the sound academic focus, character development, and improved physical safety of children throughout the United States.

Attest:

Clerk.