

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 461

Designating the week beginning October 17, 2004, as “National Character Counts Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 10, 2004

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. FITZGERALD, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LOTT, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. TALENT, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BAYH, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating the week beginning October 17, 2004, as
“National Character Counts Week”.

Whereas the well-being of the Nation requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the 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 the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, 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 an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play a role in determining the future of the Nation;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values which form the foundation of democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

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

Whereas the character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those who have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into their teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of National Character Counts Week, during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations would focus on character education, would be of great benefit to the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) proclaims the week beginning October 17,
3 2004, as “National Character Counts Week”; and

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

7 (A) embrace the elements of character
8 identified by local schools and communities,
9 such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility,
10 fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

- 1 (B) observe the week with appropriate
- 2 ceremonies, programs, and activities.

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