

college were recently harassed because they attended college wearing a Muslim scarf of over their head.

And even before the tragedies of September 11, the City of Azusa, also in my congressional district, has been home to many hate crimes, Latinos and African American youth attacking each other.

This has gone on for too long. I hope that further emphasis on responsibility, good citizenship, tolerance, and understanding will help to stem the tide of hate crimes in this country.

House Concurrent Resolution 204 expresses the sense of Congress that a National Character Counts Week should be established and that the President should issue a proclamation on the topic of character education. The establishment of a National Character Counts Week will provide families, parents, children, students, community-based organizations, and civic groups the ability to focus on character education and its many benefits.

In closing, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) for his leadership on this issue and urge the Members to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Texas. First, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER) for yielding me this time, and I also want to thank him for his help in passing this resolution, which I introduced last July.

Mr. Speaker, a good definition of character is summed up in the old saying "Character is what you do when no one is looking."

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Men and women of character are guided by standards of right and wrong. They do not look to others for approval or bend to peer pressure.

National polls indicate that moral concerns and family decline are some of the most important problems facing the country today. Too many of our children grow up in a culture that acknowledges no right or wrong.

Americans are concerned about the quality of their children's education. They are also troubled about the decline in our Nation's values and its effect on our children. Although parents should be the primary developers of character, educators play an increasingly important role. Communities across the Nation recognize that character education is an integral part of a well-rounded curriculum.

Our Nation's teachers are aware that character education can establish standards for behavior.

President Bush has made character education an important component of his education reform bill. By allocating funds to character education, States, local education agencies, parents, and students will have an opportunity to

promote character and values. This resolution will encourage schools to embrace character education. It designates the third week of October of this year and 2002 as "National Character Counts Week."

I hope children across the Nation will participate in character-building activities in their schools. It is imperative that we teach our children the values that strengthen their character and make our country strong. To reap the rewards of a virtuous society, we must first sow the seeds of character when we educate our children.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to just reiterate that this is a good bill and ask my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just close before I yield back the remainder of my time.

In light of the recent events, it seems even more appropriate to quote Dr. Martin Luther King. Let me read his quote. "The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason and no morals. We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education."

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 204, legislation establishing a national "Character Counts Week" sponsored by my friend from Texas, Mr. LAMAR SMITH.

Today, the vast majority of Americans share a respect for fundamental traits of character, honesty, compassion, justice, courage, and perseverance. Yet, in today's world, all children face great uncertainties in a complex and sometimes troubled society.

Positive character traits are not always readily apparent and easy for them to grasp or learn. When children are young, it can be difficult to decipher between what is right and what is wrong. Therefore, our challenge is to provide youths with the self-esteem, stamina, and support they need to survive, be successful, and develop into strong, competent, caring, and responsible citizens.

This resolution encourages the establishment of a "Character Counts" week, geared towards educators, students and communities to become more involved in the development of positive character traits.

Life consists of a series of choices. Every choice you make helps to define the kind of person you choose to be. Good character requires doing the right thing even when it is costly, risky, or when no one is looking. With all the pressures youths face today, how can we, as lawmakers, encourage our children to do the right thing, while so many elements in our culture say the complete opposite?

That is why it is so important for Congress to pass this resolution. Character education is about celebrating what is right with young people while encouraging and enabling them to develop knowledge and life skills for enhancing ethical and responsible behavior. I urge

my colleagues to join with me in support of this measure.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, "character."

Webster's New World Dictionary, Third college Edition defines "character" as "moral strength, self-discipline, fortitude."

The pillars which guide ethical decision-making, which make up character are: Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship.

Trustworthiness includes morality, honesty, truthfulness, sincerity, candor, loyalty and integrity.

Respect includes civility, courtesy and decency.

Being responsible means being in charge of our choices and, thus, our lives. It means being accountable for what we do and who we are.

Fairness involves issues of equality, impartiality, proportionality and openness.

Caring is ultimately about our responsibilities toward other people. A person who really cares feels an emotional response to both the pain and pleasure of others.

The concept of citizenship includes civic virtues and duties that prescribe how we ought to behave as part of a community. The good citizen gives more than he or she takes.

As leaders of this great nation, especially at this time, we must be examples of strong, moral unblemished character and encourage the young people of this nation to replicate these attributes in all their ways and conduct.

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 204.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

#### SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1860) to reauthorize the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1860

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Technology Transfer Program Reauthorization Act of 2001".