

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 413

Recognizing the importance of a nationally designated “Character Counts Week” and of the character development of young people to the present and future of the United States, and encouraging community, school, and youth organizations to integrate the “six core elements of character” articulated in the Aspen Declaration into programs for students and children.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Michigan (for himself, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. EMERSON, Mr. HAMILTON, Mr. HYDE, and Mr. MOAKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of a nationally designated “Character Counts Week” and of the character development of young people to the present and future of the United States, and encouraging community, school, and youth organizations to integrate the “six core elements of character” articulated in the Aspen Declaration into programs for students and children.

Whereas the well-being of society requires an involved, caring citizenry of good character;

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

Whereas young people will grow to become leaders and provide direction in critical times for our communities nation, and world;

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

Whereas the public good is advanced by teaching young people the importance of good character in personal relationships, school, and the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that individuals do not develop good character without effort;

Whereas families, communities, schools, religious institutions, youth and human service organizations, and civic groups must make conscientious efforts to offer strong and constructive guidance to young people to develop the traits and characteristics that are essential to good character;

Whereas efforts by communities, schools, religious institutions, youth and human service organizations, and civic groups play an important role in supporting the efforts of the families of young people to develop and promote good character;

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

Whereas the Aspen Declaration states that “[e]ffective character education is based on core ethical values which form the foundation of democratic society”;

Whereas the Aspen Declaration identified certain core ethical values as the “six core elements of character”;

Whereas the “six core elements of character” are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, justice and fairness, caring, civic virtue, and citizenship;

Whereas “the six core elements of character” transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences; and

Whereas the Aspen Declaration states that “[t]he 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”: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) recognizes the importance of a nationally  
3       designated “Character Counts Week”;

4               (2) recognizes the importance of the character  
5       development of young people to the present and fu-  
6       ture of the United States;

7               (3) encourages students, teachers, parents, and  
8       youth and community leaders to recognize the “six  
9       core elements of character” articulated in the Aspen  
10      Declaration as intrinsic to the well-being of individ-  
11      uals, communities, and society; and

12              (4) encourages community, school, and youth  
13      organizations to integrate the “six core elements of  
14      character” into programs for students and children.

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