

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 89

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Nation must place greater emphasis on helping young Americans to develop habits of good character that are essential to their own well-being and to that of our communities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 3, 1998

Mr. FRIST submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Nation must place greater emphasis on helping young Americans to develop habits of good character that are essential to their own well-being and to that of our communities.

Whereas the future of our Nation and world will be determined by the young people of today;

Whereas record levels of youth crime, violence, teenage pregnancy, and substance abuse indicate a growing moral crisis in our society;

Whereas a recent poll of teachers found that 45 percent of all students cheat on tests;

Whereas character development is the long-term process of helping young people to know, care about, and act upon such basic values as trustworthiness, respect for self and

others, responsibility, fairness, compassion, and citizenship;

Whereas these values are universal, reaching across cultural and religious differences;

Whereas a recent poll found that 90 percent of Americans support the teaching of core moral and civic values;

Whereas parents will always be children's primary character educators;

Whereas good moral character is developed best in the context of the family;

Whereas parents, community leaders, and school officials are establishing successful partnerships across the Nation to implement character education programs;

Whereas character education programs also ask parents, faculty, and staff to serve as role models of core values, to provide opportunities for young people to apply these values, and to establish high academic standards that challenge students to set high goals, work to achieve them, and persevere in spite of difficulty;

Whereas the development of virtue and moral character, those habits of mind, heart, and spirit that help young people to know, desire, and do what is right, has historically been a primary mission of colleges and universities;

Whereas in recent years the emphasis on developing the moral character of students has steadily declined in our colleges and universities as students are increasingly viewed as consumers in the marketplace rather than citizens participating in a democracy;

Whereas print resources that recognize colleges and universities according to emphasis of character development as

an essential component of higher education are available to students, parents, and high school counselors;

Whereas many of these resources are available in public libraries and in public and private high schools across the Nation; and

Whereas the Congress encourages parents, faculty, and staff across the Nation to emphasize character development in the home, in the community, in our schools, and in our colleges and universities: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress supports and encourages
3 character building initiatives in schools across America
4 and urges colleges and universities to affirm that the
5 development of character is one of the primary goals of
6 higher education.

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