
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 205 Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY HERSHEY, RUBLEY, MUNDY, LESCOVITZ, MASLAND, TRUE, HALUSKA, M. COHEN, FLICK, TIGUE, FLEAGLE, FARGO, MANDERINO, SANTONI, EGOLF, SAYLOR, NYCE, ARMSTRONG, PESCI, HERMAN, PETRONE, ROHRER, HARHART, MICOZZIE, GEIST, PITTS, ZIMMERMAN, READSHAW, STABACK, COLAFELLA, SATHER, BOSCOLA, HESS, PISTELLA, BELARDI, DeLUCA, BARD, CAPPABIANCA, E. Z. TAYLOR, SCHRODER, LEDERER, MELIO, BAKER, ITKIN, PETTIT, VAN HORNE, HORSEY, WALKO, ROBERTS, KENNEY, MARSICO, HENNESSEY, YOUNGBLOOD, HUTCHINSON, GIGLIOTTI AND CIVERA,
SEPTEMBER 19, 1995

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 19, 1995

A RESOLUTION

1 Declaring the week commencing the third Sunday in October as
2 "Character Counts Week."

3 WHEREAS, The next generation will be the stewards of our
4 communities, nation and world in critical times, and the present
5 and future well-being of our society requires an involved,
6 caring citizenry with good character; and

7 WHEREAS, Concerns about the character training of children
8 have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by and against
9 youth threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the
10 nation; and

11 WHEREAS, More than ever, children need strong and
12 constructive guidance from their families and their communities,
13 including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions

1 and civic groups; and

2 WHEREAS, The character of a nation is only as strong as the
3 character of its individual citizens, and the public good is
4 advanced when young people are taught that good character counts
5 in personal relationships, in school and in the workplace; and

6 WHEREAS, Scholars and educators agree that people do not
7 automatically develop good character and, therefore,
8 conscientious efforts must be made by youth-influencing
9 institutions and individuals to help young people develop the
10 essential traits and characteristics that comprise good
11 character; and

12 WHEREAS, Character development is, first and foremost, an
13 obligation of families. Efforts by faith communities, schools
14 and youth, civic and human service organizations also play a
15 very important role in supporting family efforts by fostering
16 and promoting good character; and

17 WHEREAS, In July of 1992 the Aspen Declaration was written by
18 an eminent group of educators, youth leaders and ethics scholars
19 for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework for
20 character education appropriate to a diverse and pluralistic
21 society; and

22 WHEREAS, The Aspen Declaration states that "effective
23 character education is based on core ethical values which form
24 the foundation of democratic society": trustworthiness, respect,
25 responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship, and these "Six
26 Pillars of Character" transcend cultural, religious and
27 socioeconomic differences; and

28 WHEREAS, The Aspen Declaration states that "The character and
29 conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of our
30 society; therefore, every adult has the responsibility to

1 promote the development of good character"; therefore be it
2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania endorse the "Six Pillars of
4 Character," commend the "Character Counts" coalition on its goal
5 to strengthen the moral fiber of the next generation, urge all
6 adults to seek out opportunities to incorporate these core
7 ethical values into their work with young people, whether in
8 park and recreation activities, child care programs, community
9 events or intern and employee training, and encourage all
10 citizens, corporate and individual, to model these traits of
11 good character in an ongoing commitment to promote character
12 development and ethical behavior among the youth of our State;
13 and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the week commencing the third Sunday in
15 October is declared as "Character Counts Week" in perpetuity and
16 call on the people of this Commonwealth, as well as all
17 interested groups, to embrace these "Six Pillars of Character"
18 and to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies and
19 activities.