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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 539 Session of  
1998

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INTRODUCED BY BARD, HERSHEY, RUBLEY, THOMAS, MAITLAND, HARHAI,  
ARMSTRONG, BAKER, ZIMMERMAN, CHADWICK, STAIRS, PIPPY,  
SANTONI, BARRAR, LAUGHLIN, ROSS, PESCI, MAJOR, MARSICO,  
GIGLIOTTI AND CORRIGAN, OCTOBER 6, 1998

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
OCTOBER 6, 1998

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 18 through 24, 1998, as  
2 "Character Counts Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The present and future well-being of our society  
4 requires an involved caring citizenry with good character; and

5 WHEREAS, Concerns about the character training of children  
6 have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence, substance  
7 abuse, unplanned pregnancy, hopelessness and suicide among young  
8 people threaten the physical and psychological well-being of our  
9 families and nation; and

10 WHEREAS, Children need strong and constructive guidance from  
11 their families and their communities, including schools, youth  
12 organizations, religious institutions and civic groups; and

13 WHEREAS, The character of a nation is only as strong as the  
14 character of its individual citizens; and

15 WHEREAS, The public good is advanced when young people are  
16 taught that good character counts in personal relationships, in

1 school and in the workplace; and

2 WHEREAS, Scholars and educators agree that people do not  
3 automatically develop good character and, therefore,  
4 conscientious efforts must be made by families and communities  
5 to help young people develop the essential traits and  
6 characteristics that comprise good character; and

7 WHEREAS, Character development is, first and foremost, an  
8 obligation of families, and the efforts of religious  
9 institutions, schools and youth, civic and human service  
10 organizations also play a very important role in supporting  
11 family efforts by fostering and promoting good character; and

12 WHEREAS, In July 1992 the Aspen Declaration was written by an  
13 eminent group of educators, youth leaders and ethics scholars  
14 for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework for  
15 character education appropriate to a diverse and pluralistic  
16 society; and

17 WHEREAS, The Aspen Declaration states that effective  
18 character education is based on core ethical values rooted in  
19 democratic society; and

20 WHEREAS, These six core ethical values, trustworthiness,  
21 respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship,  
22 transcend cultural, religious and socioeconomic differences; and

23 WHEREAS, The Aspen Declaration states that the character and  
24 conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of  
25 society; and

26 WHEREAS, Every adult has the responsibility to promote the  
27 development of good character; and

28 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives encourage all  
29 Pennsylvanians to model and teach these core ethical values in  
30 an ongoing commitment to promote character development among the

1 youth of our State; and

2 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives encourage individuals  
3 and organizations, especially schools and youth organizations,  
4 to integrate the six core ethical values into programs serving  
5 children; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
7 week of October 18 through 24, 1998, as "Character Counts Week"  
8 in Pennsylvania.