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SENATE MEMORIAL 36

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Bernadette M. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

LAUDING CHARACTER COUNTS AND PROVIDING FOR "CHARACTER COUNTS DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, young people will be the stewards of our communities, nation and world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of our society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character; and

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

WHEREAS, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions and civic groups; and

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

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

17           WHEREAS, in July 1992, the Aspen declaration was written  
18 by an eminent group of educators, youth leaders and ethics  
19 scholars for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework  
20 for character education appropriate to 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,  
25 respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship are

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1 six pillars of character that transcend cultural, religious and  
2 socioeconomic difficulties; and

3 WHEREAS, the Aspen declaration states further that "The  
4 character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and  
5 conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the  
6 responsibility to teach and model the core ethical values and  
7 every social institution has the responsibility to promote the  
8 development of good character";

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
10 OF NEW MEXICO that it declare Thursday, March 15, 2007, as  
11 "Character Counts Day" in the senate; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the six pillars of character  
13 be endorsed; that all state and local government employees be  
14 urged to seek out opportunities to incorporate these core  
15 ethical values into their work with young people in park and  
16 recreation activities, child care programs, community events  
17 and intern and employee training; and that all citizens be  
18 encouraged to model these traits of good character in an  
19 ongoing commitment to promote character development and ethical  
20 behavior in the youth of our community; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the governor and the New Mexico municipal league  
23 for appropriate distribution.