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SENATE MEMORIAL 14

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Bernadette M. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

LAUDING CHARACTER COUNTS AND DECLARING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1,
2008, AS "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 a diverse and
21 pluralistic 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 Friday, February 1, 2008, 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
23 league.