

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Bombarded with media images and messages that seem
2 to glorify irresponsible and destructive behavior and that elevate
3 figures in the sports and entertainment industries to celebrity
4 status irrespective of their personal behavior, a growing number of
5 Americans are becoming increasingly troubled about the state of the
6 union and the character of America's youth; and

7 WHEREAS, Concerns about children in today's society are
8 compounded by highly publicized accounts of violence in our
9 schools, high levels of drug use and promiscuity, and the
10 increasing inability of many young people to fulfill their
11 responsibilities as students; and

12 WHEREAS, Although these behaviors and the self-destructive
13 attitudes that engender them frequently manifest themselves in the
14 classroom and create problems for teachers, school administrators,
15 and other students, they also are awakening a conviction within the
16 education community and among parents, policy makers, and other
17 concerned citizens that our public schools have an important role
18 to play, along with family, religion, and the larger community, in
19 helping children develop good consciences and ethical behavior; and

20 WHEREAS, While the primary responsibility for instilling
21 character in our nation's youth rests with each child's parents, our
22 schools can play a pivotal role in reinforcing the values being
23 taught in the home through a curriculum that treats the development
24 of personal character traits as a matter equally as important as

1 academic achievement; and

2 WHEREAS, The public school system's role as a force in
3 society to promulgate the fundamental values and beliefs on which
4 this nation was founded becomes more important at a time when
5 changes in family structures and the pressures of the modern age
6 leave many parents, whether busy with work or absent altogether,
7 unable to impart those values and beliefs that once were vital
8 components of family life; and

9 WHEREAS, Numerous school districts, both within the state and
10 across the nation, have either implemented character education
11 programs or successfully incorporated a virtues program into their
12 daily curricula for students in kindergarten through 12th grade;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Often developed as a joint project involving
15 faith-based communities, parent-teacher organizations, public
16 school administrators and teachers, the local business community,
17 students, and elected school officials, virtues education programs
18 focus the attention of schoolchildren on those character traits of
19 prominent past and present individuals that display the virtues
20 society most highly prizes; and

21 WHEREAS, By stressing the fundamental importance of values
22 that all can agree are worth emulating, virtues education programs
23 can help solve problems such as student violence, teenage
24 pregnancies, and substance abuse; help raise levels of academic
25 performance; and restore hope in the future of society; and

26 WHEREAS, Some examples of virtues that many individuals
27 consider appropriate include attentiveness, availability,

1 citizenship, compassion, confidence, contentment, courage,
2 dependability, diligence, discretion, efficiency, encouragement,
3 enthusiasm, fairness, faith, forgiveness, friendliness,
4 generosity, gentleness, gratitude, honesty, humility, initiative,
5 joy, kindness, obedience, optimism, patience, peace, perseverance,
6 purity, respect, responsibility, reverence, self-control,
7 thoughtfulness, and wisdom; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
9 hereby direct the Texas Education Agency and the State Board of
10 Education to adopt and promote a virtues education program and to
11 provide school districts with materials and support to assist in
12 the program's implementation; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the virtues education program include
14 age-appropriate curricula and educational material and be
15 structured to provide instruction beginning in kindergarten and
16 continuing through 12th grade; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
18 copies of this resolution to the commissioner of education and to
19 the chair of the State Board of Education.

Griggs

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 73 was adopted by the House on April 25, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 73 was adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor