

1-1 By: Griggs (Senate Sponsor - Nelson) H.C.R. No. 73
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 28, 2003;
1-3 May 1, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Education; May 19, 2003, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 19, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, Bombarded with media images and messages that seem
1-8 to glorify irresponsible and destructive behavior and that elevate
1-9 figures in the sports and entertainment industries to celebrity
1-10 status irrespective of their personal behavior, a growing number of
1-11 Americans are becoming increasingly troubled about the state of the
1-12 union and the character of America's youth; and

1-13 WHEREAS, Concerns about children in today's society are
1-14 compounded by highly publicized accounts of violence in our
1-15 schools, high levels of drug use and promiscuity, and the
1-16 increasing inability of many young people to fulfill their
1-17 responsibilities as students; and

1-18 WHEREAS, Although these behaviors and the self-destructive
1-19 attitudes that engender them frequently manifest themselves in the
1-20 classroom and create problems for teachers, school administrators,
1-21 and other students, they also are awakening a conviction within the
1-22 education community and among parents, policy makers, and other
1-23 concerned citizens that our public schools have an important role
1-24 to play, along with family, religion, and the larger community, in
1-25 helping children develop good consciences and ethical behavior; and

1-26 WHEREAS, While the primary responsibility for instilling
1-27 character in our nation's youth rests with each child's parents, our
1-28 schools can play a pivotal role in reinforcing the values being
1-29 taught in the home through a curriculum that treats the development
1-30 of personal character traits as a matter equally as important as
1-31 academic achievement; and

1-32 WHEREAS, The public school system's role as a force in
1-33 society to promulgate the fundamental values and beliefs on which
1-34 this nation was founded becomes more important at a time when
1-35 changes in family structures and the pressures of the modern age
1-36 leave many parents, whether busy with work or absent altogether,
1-37 unable to impart those values and beliefs that once were vital
1-38 components of family life; and

1-39 WHEREAS, Numerous school districts, both within the state and
1-40 across the nation, have either implemented character education
1-41 programs or successfully incorporated a virtues program into their
1-42 daily curricula for students in kindergarten through 12th grade;
1-43 and

1-44 WHEREAS, Often developed as a joint project involving
1-45 faith-based communities, parent-teacher organizations, public
1-46 school administrators and teachers, the local business community,
1-47 students, and elected school officials, virtues education programs
1-48 focus the attention of schoolchildren on those character traits of
1-49 prominent past and present individuals that display the virtues
1-50 society most highly prizes; and

1-51 WHEREAS, By stressing the fundamental importance of values
1-52 that all can agree are worth emulating, virtues education programs
1-53 can help solve problems such as student violence, teenage
1-54 pregnancies, and substance abuse; help raise levels of academic
1-55 performance; and restore hope in the future of society; and

1-56 WHEREAS, Some examples of virtues that many individuals
1-57 consider appropriate include attentiveness, availability,
1-58 citizenship, compassion, confidence, contentment, courage,
1-59 dependability, diligence, discretion, efficiency, encouragement,
1-60 enthusiasm, fairness, faith, forgiveness, friendliness,
1-61 generosity, gentleness, gratitude, honesty, humility, initiative,
1-62 joy, kindness, obedience, optimism, patience, peace, perseverance,
1-63 purity, respect, responsibility, reverence, self-control,
1-64 thoughtfulness, and wisdom; now, therefore, be it

2-1 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-2 hereby direct the Texas Education Agency and the State Board of
2-3 Education to adopt and promote a virtues education program and to
2-4 provide school districts with materials and support to assist in
2-5 the program's implementation; and, be it further

2-6 RESOLVED, That the virtues education program include
2-7 age-appropriate curricula and educational material and be
2-8 structured to provide instruction beginning in kindergarten and
2-9 continuing through 12th grade; and, be it further

2-10 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
2-11 copies of this resolution to the commissioner of education and to
2-12 the chair of the State Board of Education.

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