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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The well-being of the State of Illinois requires  
3 that the young people of this State become an involved, caring  
4 citizenry with good character; and

5           WHEREAS, The character education of children has become  
6 more urgent as violence by and against youth increasingly  
7 threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the  
8 people of this State; and

9           WHEREAS, More than ever, children need strong and  
10 constructive guidance from their families and their  
11 communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious  
12 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 the importance of good character and the positive  
17 effects that good character can have in personal relationships,  
18 school, and the workplace; and

19           WHEREAS, Scholars and educators agree that people do not  
20 automatically develop good character; therefore, conscientious

1 efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that  
2 influence youth to help young people develop the essential  
3 traits and characteristics that comprise good character; and

4 WHEREAS, Although character development is, first and  
5 foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith  
6 communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service  
7 organizations also play an important role in fostering and  
8 promoting good character; and

9 WHEREAS, Effective character education is based on core  
10 ethical values, which form the foundation of democratic  
11 society; examples of character are trustworthiness, respect,  
12 responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;  
13 elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and  
14 socioeconomic differences; and

15 WHEREAS, The character and conduct of our youth reflect the  
16 character and conduct of society; therefore, every adult has  
17 the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every  
18 social institution has the responsibility to promote the  
19 development of good character; and

20 WHEREAS, Many schools in this State recognize the need, and  
21 have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities  
22 into their teaching activities; and

1           WHEREAS, The establishment of Character Counts Week,  
2 during which individuals, families, schools, youth  
3 organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other  
4 organizations focus on character education, is of great benefit  
5 to this State; therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
8 encourage students, teachers, parents, youth, and community  
9 leaders to recognize the importance of character education in  
10 preparing young people to play a role in determining the future  
11 of this State; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That we encourage individuals and organizations,  
13 especially those who have an interest in the education and  
14 training of the young people of this State, to adopt the  
15 elements of character as intrinsic to the wellbeing of  
16 individuals, communities, and our society; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That we designate the third week of October in  
18 2009 as "Character Counts Week" in the State of Illinois; and  
19 be it further

20           RESOLVED, That we call upon the people of the State of  
21 Illinois and interested groups to embrace the elements of

1 character identified by local schools and communities, such as  
2 trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring,  
3 and citizenship, and to observe the week with appropriate  
4 ceremonies, programs, and activities.