



1995 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 55

September 14, 1995 – Introduced by Representatives GREEN, GUNDERSON, COLEMAN, DUFF, PORTER, RYBA, SCHNEIDERS, LADWIG, GOETSCH, FREESE, HAHN, OLSEN, OWENS, F. LASEE, SILBAUGH, HARS DORF, SERATTI, OTT, ALBERS, VRAKAS and GROTHMAN, cosponsored by Senators PANZER, FITZGERALD, WEEDEN, CLAUSING, ZIEN and COWLES. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming Character Counts Week.

2 Whereas, the next generation will be the stewards of our communities, nation
3 and world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of our society
4 requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character; and

5 Whereas, concerns about the character training of children have taken on a new
6 sense of urgency as violence by and against young persons threatens the physical and
7 psychological well-being of the nation; and

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

11 Whereas, the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its
12 individual citizens, and the public good is advanced when young people are taught
13 that good character counts in personal relationships, in school and in the workplace;
14 and

15 Whereas, scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically
16 develop good character and, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by

1 youth-influencing institutions and individuals to help young people develop the
2 essential traits and characteristics that constitute good character; and

3 Whereas, although character development is first and foremost an obligation
4 of families, efforts by faith communities, schools and youth, civic and human service
5 organizations also play a very important role in supporting family efforts by fostering
6 and promoting good character; and

7 Whereas, in July of 1992 the Aspen Declaration was written by an eminent
8 group of educators, youth leaders and ethics scholars for the purpose of articulating
9 a coherent framework for character education in our society; and

10 Whereas, the Aspen Declaration states that “effective character education is
11 based on core ethical values which form the foundation of democratic society”:
12 trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship, and these
13 “Six Pillars of Character” transcend cultural, religious and socioeconomic
14 differences; and

15 Whereas, the Aspen Declaration states that “the character and conduct of our
16 youth reflect the character and conduct of our society; therefore, every adult has the
17 responsibility to promote the development of good character”; now, therefore, be it

18 ***Resolved by the assembly, the Senate concurring, That*** the legislature of
19 the state of Wisconsin endorses the “Six Pillars of Character”; urges all adults to seek
20 opportunities to incorporate these core ethical values into their work with young
21 people, whether in park and recreation activities, child care programs, community
22 events or intern and employe training; and encourages all citizens, corporate and
23 individual, to model these traits of good character in an ongoing commitment to
24 promote character development and ethical behavior among the youth of our state;
25 and, be it further

1 ***Resolved, That*** the legislature of the state of Wisconsin declares the week
2 commencing on October 15, 1995, as “Character Counts Week” and calls on the
3 people of this state as well as all interested groups to embrace these “Six Pillars of
4 Character” and to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

5

(END)