



HR0254

LRB097 11351 NHT 53734 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Section 27-12 of the School Code states that  
"every public school teacher shall teach character education,  
which includes the teaching of respect, responsibility,  
fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship, in order  
to raise pupils' honesty, kindness, justice, discipline,  
respect for others, and moral courage for the purpose of  
lessening crime and raising the standard of good character";  
and

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WHEREAS, School is not the only opportunity for lessons of  
character development to occur; it is often difficult for  
school districts and community organizations to identify and  
find resources and programs that meet the statutory educational  
requirements, and educational opportunities often arise only  
in a haphazard way throughout the period of a season or school  
year; and

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WHEREAS, Examples of a need for programs that can meet the  
needs of a changing society are present from institutions of  
higher education, newspapers, and the media that decry the lack  
of character development and moral and ethical education and  
the seeming lack of moral judgment in making business,  
political, and even personal decisions; and

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1           WHEREAS, The Good Citizens Foundation is a new, non-profit  
2 organization in this State, founded by James McCoy, D.C., of  
3 Sycamore, Illinois, which is dedicated to the mission of  
4 identifying secular, non-religious programs of learning that  
5 teach moral judgment, character development, and ethical  
6 decision-making to future generations; and

7           WHEREAS, The Good Citizens Foundation has discovered,  
8 researched, and identified many good character building  
9 programs, such as Character Counts!, based on the 6 pillars of  
10 character; the Torch Clubs and Keystone Clubs of the Boys and  
11 Girls Clubs of America, based on involving pre-teens and teens  
12 in their communities; and the Good Choices Program, based on  
13 the Way to Happiness; and

14           WHEREAS, These programs have been selected by the Good  
15 Citizens Foundation for recommendation as programs that can  
16 have great positive impact on the character development of the  
17 children of this State; and

18           WHEREAS, Of these programs, those that have been most  
19 successfully implemented in a public school, as well as in  
20 after-school settings, are Character Counts! and the Good  
21 Choices Program, each with programs to fit students from ages 6  
22 to 18-years old and with cost-effective training and resources  
23 for teachers; and

1           WHEREAS, The Good Choices Program not only satisfies  
2 Section 27-12 of the School Code, but also comes with the  
3 endorsement, support, and assistance of the Happy House:  
4 Building Better Families organization, co-founded by actress  
5 Nancy Cartwright; and

6           WHEREAS, The Good Citizens Foundation will maintain a  
7 virtual headquarters for the people of this State on the  
8 Internet, where it will provide links to all of the programs  
9 listed in this resolution, as well as research and identify  
10 others; therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
12 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we recognize that the programs listed in this resolution are  
14 all qualified to teach character development, and that we  
15 acknowledge that the Good Choices Program, by virtue of the  
16 fact that it teaches common sense guidelines covering specific  
17 tools to help children evaluate situations and make good  
18 decisions that will improve life for themselves and others, is  
19 one example of a program fully in compliance with Section 27-12  
20 of the School Code, as it seeks to enhance the character  
21 development and potential future moral judgment of the children  
22 of this State and, therefore, encourages its use and the use of  
23 similar programs by educators, coaches, mentors, and other

1 community service leaders; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to the Good Citizens Foundation.