

Hall of the House of Representatives
83rd General Assembly - Regular Session, 2001
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Concurrent Resolution No. 1040

"RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS AS A "STATE OF CHARACTER"."

Amendment No. 1 to House Concurrent Resolution No. 1040.

Amend House Concurrent Resolution No. 1040 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete lines 17, 18, and 19 and substitute the following:

"WHEREAS, the people of the State of Arkansas recognize the importance of having citizens with honorable character qualities based upon the moral standards held by our Founding Fathers and with which they established our nation and legal system; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the validity of the statement by Alexis de Tocqueville that "America is great because she is good. When America ceases to be good, she will cease to be great"; and

WHEREAS, we desire to build upon our heritage in making Arkansas a place where families are strong, homes and streets are safe, education is effective, business is productive, neighbors care about one another, and citizens are free to make wise choices for their lives and families; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that individuals are responsible for their actions and that daily decisions should be based upon objective moral standards which are the basis of universally-recognized character qualities, including obedience, honesty, truthfulness, diligence, generosity, kindness, loyalty, and courage; and

WHEREAS, lack of commitment and irresponsibility have resulted in an increasing number of family problems causing personal, social, and financial consequences to individual family members and to this State as a whole; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for more positive role models among our young people to help prevent juvenile rebellion and delinquency; and

WHEREAS, if people fail to demonstrate positive character qualities and if they make wrong moral choices, the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens are endangered, resulting in a financial burden upon the taxpayers for the costs of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, many current societal problems will be alleviated when the citizens of this State live by positive and constructive character qualities which distinguish between right and wrong; and

WHEREAS, teaching positive character qualities to juvenile delinquents has been shown to produce a change in behavior, reducing recidivism rates; and

WHEREAS, our schools should be a safe atmosphere where character is exemplified, taught, and strengthened, and where learning is encouraged; and

WHEREAS, encouraging employees by recognizing positive character qualities has resulted in an increase in workplace morale, employee safety, and corporate profits; and

WHEREAS, the emphasis of positive character qualities in every sector of society can only occur as individuals commit themselves to exemplifying character in their personal lives and inspiring others to do the same,"

AND

Page 1, delete line 25 and substitute the following:

"That we pledge our commitment to character by declaring Arkansas to be a State of Character and by doing all in our power to promote character in our schools, businesses, homes, churches, city government, state agencies, media, and community groups, and we urge the leaders of each of these jurisdictions to do likewise."

The Amendment was read

By: Representative Womack

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Chief Clerk