

The Legislature  
of the  
State of New Mexico

48th Legislature, Second Session

LAWS 2008

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

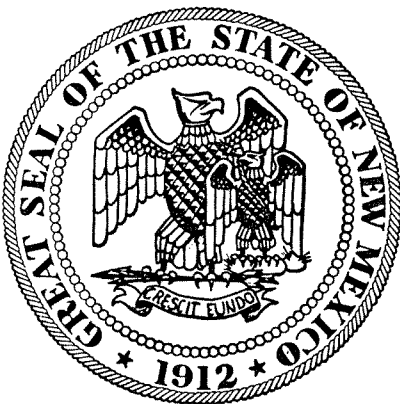
SENATE MEMORIAL 14

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Introduced by

SENATOR BERNADETTE M. SANCHEZ  
SENATOR PETE CAMPOS  
SENATOR CARLOS R. CISNEROS  
SENATOR JOHN T.L. GRUBESIC  
SENATOR LINDA M. LOPEZ  
SENATOR RICHARD C. MARTINEZ  
SENATOR CISCO McSORLEY  
SENATOR JAMES G. TAYLOR  
SENATOR DAVID ULIBARRI



1 A MEMORIAL

2 LAUDING CHARACTER COUNTS AND DECLARING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1,  
3 2008, AS "CHARACTER COUNTS DAY" IN THE SENATE.

4  
5 WHEREAS, young people will be the stewards of our  
6 communities, nation and world in critical times, and the  
7 present and future well-being of our society requires an  
8 involved, caring citizenry with good character; and

9 WHEREAS, concerns about the character training of  
10 children have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by  
11 and against youth threatens the physical and psychological  
12 well-being of the nation; and

13 WHEREAS, more than ever, children need strong and  
14 constructive guidance from their families and their  
15 communities, including schools, youth organizations,  
16 religious institutions and civic groups; and

17 WHEREAS, the character of a nation is only as strong as  
18 the character of its individual citizens, and the public good  
19 is advanced when young people are taught that good character  
20 counts in personal relationships, in school and in the  
21 workplace; and

22 WHEREAS, scholars and educators agree that people do not  
23 automatically develop good character and, therefore,  
24 conscientious efforts must be made by youth-influencing  
25 institutions and individuals to help young people develop the

1 essential traits and characteristics that constitute good  
2 character; and

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

8 WHEREAS, in July 1992, the Aspen declaration was written  
9 by an eminent group of educators, youth leaders and ethics  
10 scholars for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework  
11 for character education appropriate to a diverse and  
12 pluralistic society; and

13 WHEREAS, the Aspen declaration states that "effective  
14 character education is based on core ethical values which  
15 form the foundation of democratic society"; trustworthiness,  
16 respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship are  
17 six pillars of character that transcend cultural, religious  
18 and socioeconomic difficulties; and

19 WHEREAS, the Aspen declaration states further that "The  
20 character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and  
21 conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the  
22 responsibility to teach and model the core ethical values and  
23 every social institution has the responsibility to promote  
24 the development of good character";

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it declare Friday, February 1, 2008,  
2 as "Character Counts Day" in the senate; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the six pillars of character  
4 be endorsed; that all state and local government employees be  
5 urged to seek out opportunities to incorporate these core  
6 ethical values into their work with young people in park and  
7 recreation activities, child care programs, community events  
8 and intern and employee training; and that all citizens be  
9 encouraged to model these traits of good character in an  
10 ongoing commitment to promote character development and  
11 ethical behavior in the youth of our community; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the governor and the New Mexico municipal  
14 league. \_\_\_\_\_

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s/Diane D. Denish  
Diane D. Denish, President  
Senate

s/Lenore M. Naranjo  
Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk  
Senate

s/Diane D. Denish  
Diane D. Denish, President  
Senate

s/Lenore M. Naranjo  
Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk  
Senate