

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1952

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a demonstration program of grants for innovative projects relating to character education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 1993

Mr. HALL of Ohio introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a demonstration program of grants for innovative projects relating to character education, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Character Education
5 Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

1 (1) to explore, assess, and stimulate a variety of
2 approaches to character education;

3 (2) to lend Federal support to local and State
4 character education programs that seek to promote
5 commonly accepted civic and character values and
6 the principles of democracy.

7 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

8 The Congress finds that—

9 (1) many Americans of all economic and social
10 levels and ages no longer make determinations of
11 right and wrong as to their own actions or the ac-
12 tions of others in matters of both public and private
13 concern;

14 (2) educational institutions, which have tradi-
15 tionally played a role in assisting students to make
16 such determinations, no longer receive explicit au-
17 thority or proper assistance necessary to fulfill this
18 responsibility;

19 (3) the Nation has witnessed a national moral
20 recession in governmental and political activities, sci-
21 entific research, and business and commerce, in
22 which individuals have failed to consider the ethics
23 governing their behavior;

1 (4) statistics show alarming incidents in indi-
2 vidual and gang violence, drug and substance abuse,
3 and suicide among both young people and adults;

4 (5) polls show that Americans overwhelmingly
5 prize values such as honesty, but believe that people
6 are less honest today than in the past;

7 (6) leaders representing a broad spectrum of
8 political, social, and religious backgrounds believe
9 that education in moral issues contributes to good
10 citizenship and have called for strengthening the
11 teaching of democratic values;

12 (7) local character education programs have
13 shown positive results in reducing negative student
14 behavior, including violence, vandalism, and dis-
15 respect for others, and in promoting an understand-
16 ing of shared civic and character values;

17 (8) training in ethics is an ongoing concern in
18 business and industry and in public service; and

19 (9) while education remains the responsibility of
20 local and State governments, the Congress and the
21 Federal Government may appropriately provide as-
22 sistance to educational agencies and institutions at-
23 tempting to promote ethics, civic and character val-
24 ues, and the principles of democracy through char-
25 acter education programs.

1 **SEC. 4. DEFINITION.**

2 For purposes of this Act, the term “character edu-
3 cation” means the teaching of commonly accepted civic
4 and character values and the principles of democracy that
5 contribute to ethical behavior.

6 **TITLE I—CHARACTER EDU-**
7 **CATION DEMONSTRATION**
8 **PROGRAM**

9 **SEC. 101. AMENDMENT TO SECRETARY’S FUND FOR INNO-**
10 **VATION IN EDUCATION.**

11 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—Paragraph (2) of sec-
12 tion 4601(a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education
13 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 3151(a)) is amended—

14 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
15 graph (C);

16 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
17 paragraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

18 (3) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(E) help stimulate understanding of ethics,
20 civic and character values, and the principles of de-
21 mocracy as a means of enhancing and improving ele-
22 mentary and secondary education in accordance with
23 section 4610.”.

24 (b) CHARACTER EDUCATION DEMONSTRATION PRO-
25 GRAM.—Part F of title IV of the Elementary and Second-

1 ary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 3151 et seq.) is
2 amended—

3 (1) by redesignating section 4610 as section
4 4611; and

5 (2) by inserting before section 4611 (as redesign-
6 nated by paragraph (1) of this subsection) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 **“SEC. 4610. CHARACTER EDUCATION DEMONSTRATION**
9 **PROGRAM.**

10 “(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary is au-
11 thorized to make grants to State educational agencies,
12 local educational agencies, institutions of higher edu-
13 cation, and other public and private agencies, organiza-
14 tions, and institutions to conduct character education ac-
15 tivities designed to help stimulate understanding of ethics,
16 civic and character values, and the principles of democracy
17 as a means of enhancing and improving elementary and
18 secondary education.

19 “(b) USES OF FUNDS.—Grants made under this sec-
20 tion may be used for—

21 “(1) the development of teaching materials for
22 character education;

23 “(2) teacher training and seminars;

24 “(3) the establishment of clearinghouses for
25 character education programs;

1 “(4) proposals seeking to involve the entire
2 school environment;

3 “(5) research and followup studies of existing
4 programs of character and civic values and ethics
5 education;

6 “(6) projects that measure and evaluate the ef-
7 fectiveness of ongoing character education programs;

8 “(7) character and values education projects
9 demonstrating a beneficial effect on individual ethi-
10 cal behavior and on the incidence of individual and
11 gang violence, drug and substance abuse, and sui-
12 cide;

13 “(8) projects that assist in identifying a consen-
14 sus of values within a community that may be
15 appropriately promoted in schools of the community;
16 and

17 “(9) projects that seek to develop model pro-
18 grams to promote character and civic values, ethics,
19 and responsible citizenship.

20 “(c) APPLICATION.—Each applicant desiring to re-
21 ceive a grant under this section shall submit an application
22 in such form, in such manner, and containing or accom-
23 panied by such information as the Secretary may reason-
24 ably require. Each such application shall—

1 “(1) identify civic and character values and eth-
2 ics that receive widespread support from a consensus
3 of individuals in the community served;

4 “(2) describe the school population intended to
5 benefit from the proposed activities;

6 “(3) demonstrate how the proposal fulfills the
7 purpose described in subsection (a);

8 “(4) describe the methods to be used to evalu-
9 ate the results of the proposed activities; and

10 “(5) provide assurances that the applicant will
11 appoint an advisory board to assist the applicant in
12 conducting the proposed activities, which board shall
13 consist of individuals representative of—

14 “(A) parents;

15 “(B) educators and teachers;

16 “(C) community leaders;

17 “(D) social service professionals;

18 “(E) business leaders; and

19 “(F) the general public.”.

20 **TITLE II—NATIONAL CON-**
21 **FERENCE ON CHARACTER**
22 **EDUCATION**

23 **SEC. 201. NATIONAL CONFERENCE.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Education
25 shall sponsor a National Character Education Conference

1 (referred to in this title as the “conference”) not later
2 than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act
3 to evaluate local and State character education programs
4 throughout the Nation.

5 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary of Education shall
6 invite individuals who have expertise regarding character
7 education to participate as members in the conference, in-
8 cluding—

- 9 (1) parents;
- 10 (2) teachers;
- 11 (3) educators;
- 12 (4) community leaders;
- 13 (5) social service professionals;
- 14 (6) business leaders;
- 15 (7) philosophers;
- 16 (8) government officials;
- 17 (9) representatives of the arts, entertainment,
18 and sports fields; and
- 19 (10) the general public.

20 **SEC. 202. DUTIES.**

21 Members of the conference shall—

- 22 (1) assess and evaluate what types of character
23 education programs are available at the State and
24 local level;

1 (2) assess and evaluate programs used by
2 schools to teach students character education;

3 (3) determine how to measure the content and
4 efficacy of character education programs in prepar-
5 ing students as productive members of society;

6 (4) determine how the Government can assist
7 with the development and implementation of char-
8 acter education programs; and

9 (5) evaluate and make recommendations re-
10 garding successful teaching methods and models for
11 character education.

12 **SEC. 203. REPORTS.**

13 The Secretary of Education shall submit to the Con-
14 gress a report which states the findings, conclusions, and
15 recommendations of the conference not later than 180
16 days after the conference is held.

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