

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION HCR1009

By: Claunch of the House

and

Coffee of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution creating the Character Education Task Force; and providing for purpose, membership, reimbursement, report, and staff of the Task Force.

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Legislature established by law the importance of character education by encouraging local school districts to incorporate a comprehensive program for character education for grades kindergarten through six starting with the 1999-2000 school year; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of character education supports those pivotal core ethical values that serve the common good and lead young people to develop a strong inner commitment to doing what their moral judgment tells them is right; and

WHEREAS, one of the best sources for an appropriate set of healthy core ethical values is to be found in the history of this country and the ideas that have shaped the highest precepts of the United States and our ancestors; and

WHEREAS, other state legislatures and school districts have found that the display of certain political and religious documents which have played a critical role in the history of the United States is beneficial to character education in their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, these documents frequently include the Ten Commandments, the Mayflower Compact, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution of the United States and the state in which the school is located, the Declaration of Independence, and the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 1024 was introduced in the 2001 regular session of the Oklahoma Legislature in order to encourage local school boards to display those documents as part of their schools character education program, but consideration of the bill was delayed for further study.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT a thirteen-member Character Education Task Force is hereby created to study House Bill No. 1024.

THAT the members of the Task Force shall be appointed as follows:

1. Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, not more than two of whom shall be from the same political party;

2. Four members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, not more than three of whom shall be from the same political party;

3. One school board member from an urban school district and one school board member from a rural school district appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

4. One school board member from an urban school district and one school board member from a rural school district appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

5. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or a designee.

THAT the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate each appoint one of their legislative appointees as a cochair.

THAT reimbursement of the members of the Task Force for necessary travel be provided by the entity from which they are appointed. Legislative members shall be reimbursed in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Other members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

THAT the Task Force shall issue its report containing its findings and recommendations on or before December 1, 2001, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The Task Force shall terminate February 1, 2002.

THAT staff for the Task Force shall be provided by the House of Representatives and Senate. Other agencies shall cooperate with and provide assistance to the Task Force as it may require.

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