

1 SJR73
2 218304-2
3 By Senators Marsh and Orr
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 09-MAR-22

1 SJR73

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4 ENROLLED, SJR73,

5 ALABAMA, A STATE OF CHARACTER.

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7 WHEREAS, in 1995, the Legislature acknowledged our
8 nation's history and the importance of teaching and promoting
9 character principles in order to develop a successful
10 workforce and citizenry by including the Alabama Character
11 Education Mandate in the Education Reform Act of that year
12 (Act 95-313), requiring public schools to teach all students
13 26 character traits for no less than 10 minutes each day; and

14 WHEREAS, the people of Alabama recognized the
15 importance of citizens with honorable character qualities
16 based upon the moral standards upon which our nation and legal
17 system are established; and

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

23 WHEREAS, we recognize that individuals are
24 responsible for their actions and that daily decisions should
25 be based upon sound timeless values that are the basis of

1 universally recognized character qualities, including
2 kindness, courage, loyalty, diligence, generosity,
3 truthfulness, honesty, and obedience; and

4 WHEREAS, irresponsibility and a lack of commitment
5 to these values have resulted in an increasing number of
6 family problems causing personal, social, and financial
7 consequences to individual family members and to society as a
8 whole; and

9 WHEREAS, when people fail to demonstrate positive
10 character qualities or make poor moral choices, the health,
11 safety, and welfare of the citizens are endangered, resulting
12 in financial burden upon the taxpayers for the costs of lower
13 productivity and increased social services and law
14 enforcement; many current societal problems will be alleviated
15 when citizens live by positive and constructive character
16 qualities that distinguish between right and wrong, and it has
17 been shown that teaching and reinforcing positive character
18 qualities to juvenile delinquents produces a change of
19 behavior, reducing recidivism rates; and

20 WHEREAS, our prisons far exceed planned capacity and
21 there is a need for more positive role models among our young
22 people to discourage juvenile delinquency and for these
23 individuals to understand those qualities that have made our
24 country strong and prosperous; and

1 WHEREAS, our schools should be safe climates in
2 which character is exemplified, taught, and strengthened, and
3 learning is encouraged; and

4 WHEREAS, encouraging employees by recognizing
5 positive character qualities has resulted in an increase in
6 workplace morale, employee safety, and corporate profits; such
7 action is essential as Alabama competes for 21st Century jobs
8 with states in which character is emphasized; and

9 WHEREAS, presidents throughout our nation's history
10 have promoted character principles and have encouraged
11 character education as a high priority for America's schools;
12 many other highly regarded civic leaders have extolled
13 character as among the qualities by which all people should be
14 judged; and

15 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature must address the
16 challenge of allocating and stretching very limited resources
17 very far, because of education and social needs; and

18 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature has repeatedly
19 appealed for the promotion of character-building strategies
20 through its approval of "Alabama, a State of Character"
21 resolutions in 2000, 2005, 2008, 2014, 2018, and 2022 and the
22 Alabama House of Representatives in 2011; and

23 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature again appeals for
24 character-building strategies to be promoted in a
25 collaborative way by partners, and we, as Alabama lawmakers,

1 again appeal for there to be creative efforts to support and
2 promote practical and affordable strategies for this state
3 which will help Alabama to take the lead with the "States of
4 Character" movement; now therefore,

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
6 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we reaffirm our 2000, 2005,
7 2008, 2014, and 2018 declarations of Alabama as a State of
8 Character, and appeal to partners to collaborate when
9 developing and supporting the implementation of character
10 building strategies. As Alabama leaders, we agree to support
11 the development of "State of Character" strategies and to
12 encourage cooperation with other legally declared States of
13 Character for the States of Character movement to positively
14 influence our nation. We pledge to do all in our power to
15 promote this Alabama, A State of Character resolution and
16 character education in our schools, businesses, homes,
17 churches, local governments, state agencies, media, and
18 community groups, and we urge leaders of each of these areas
19 to do likewise.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR73

Senate 09-MAR-22

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Adopted: 17-MAR-22

By: Senator Marsh