



ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**Kevin Mullin**

DISTRICT 22



## ACR 144: Character Education

### **PURPOSE**

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ACR 144 urges the State Board of Education, county offices of education, and local school governing bodies to increase emphasis on character, citizenship, ethics, and the humane treatment of living creatures in order to promote a humane and compassionate society.

### **BACKGROUND**

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Section 233.5 of the California Code of Education requires that educators instill moral and ethical principles in pupils across the state. It also mandates that teachers promote kindness toward domestic pets and the humane treatment of living creatures to create a more healthy and humane world.

The State of California has demonstrated increased support for character education since the 1980s, when a select bipartisan committee on character education was initiated. Every year, the California State Board of Education adopts a resolution naming the month of October as “Character Education Month.”

Character education programs in schools have a positive effect on child performance. These programs help promote common values and behaviors, such as respect, responsibility, justice, leadership, and teamwork. Additionally, character education programs that incorporate the humane treatment of animals into their curriculum also encourage good character, citizenship, and ethics. Teaching children about kindness toward animals helps them develop a sense of empathy toward both animals and people.

### **SUPPORT**

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Palo Alto Humane Society

### **STAFF CONTACT**

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Marina Espinoza

[Marina.Espinoza@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Marina.Espinoza@asm.ca.gov)

916.319.2022