

Senate Resolution 877

By: Senator Cagle of the 49th

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the effective teaching of American history and government in the context of
2 western civilization; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the mission of American public schools includes the preparation of students for
4 citizenship through the teaching of the history and government of the United States,
5 including the importance of the U.S. Constitution; and

6 WHEREAS, this history of our nation, our form of government, and constitution can be fully
7 understood only in light of its roots in the heritage of western civilization; and

8 WHEREAS, the contributions of western civilization to our national heritage and the world
9 include the concept of individual liberty, the rule of law, democratic institutions, the concept
10 of universal human rights, the development of science and technology, and the importance
11 of religious tolerance; and

12 WHEREAS, contemporary educational trends often downgrade the teaching of western
13 civilization and its contributions in favor of a multicultural approach that emphasizes
14 differences among Americans, rather than our common heritage; and

15 WHEREAS, if young people are not taught to understand and appreciate the values and
16 culture Americans share, the United States will continue to become increasingly vulnerable
17 to social division, mutual distrust, and animosity; and

18 WHEREAS, if immigrants to the United States do not gain an understanding of our national
19 political and civic institutions as derived from western civilization, they will be unable to
20 participate fully and equally in the process of self-government; and

1 WHEREAS, the advent of swifter modes of communication, transportation, and mass
2 migration of people across international borders could balkanize our country unless all
3 citizens recognize that a common set of values and purpose bind us together; and

4 WHEREAS, this American commonality of values and purpose can be strengthened by
5 widespread appreciation for western civilization and the accomplishments of western
6 civilization, namely the establishment of democratic institutions, the rule of law, individual
7 liberty, the concept of universal human rights, the development of science and technology,
8 and the importance of religious tolerance.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE

10 (1) That the members of this body find and declare that teaching young people to have an
11 appreciation of western civilization is central to the development and maintenance of a
12 vibrant, united, and enduring United States polity, culture, and society; and

13 (2) That we encourage local school boards in the State of Georgia to ensure that these
14 concepts and ideals are effectively taught, and that all young people who graduate from high
15 schools in this state do so with an understanding and appreciation of the values and
16 accomplishments of western civilization.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
18 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the state board of education and to each
19 local school board in the state.