

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 95

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 105

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 95—Relative to World War II.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 27, 2010.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 95, Simitian. World War II: Italian Americans.

This measure would set forth the Legislature's formal acknowledgment that the treatment of Italian Americans during World War II represented a fundamental injustice against Italian Americans, its deepest regrets of these acts, and its reaffirmation of a commitment to preserving the rights of all people and celebrating their contributions.

WHEREAS, Since 1852, over 15 million Italians have immigrated to the United States, bringing with them a culture and heritage that has enriched the lives of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, The treatment of Italian Americans during World War II was authorized by the Alien Enemies Act, which was passed by Congress, and additional authority was based on Executive Order No. 9066 (issued February 19, 1942) and Executive Order No. 9102 (issued March 18, 1942). These orders required Italian born citizens and their families to carry identification cards, face travel restrictions, and obey curfews, and authorized the seizure of personal property; and

WHEREAS, 10,000 Italian Americans living on the West Coast were forced to leave their homes and were prohibited from entering coastal zones during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of Italian American immigrants were arrested and hundreds were interned in military camps during World War II; and

WHEREAS, The story of the treatment of Italian Americans during World War II needs to be told in order to acknowledge that these events happened, to remember those whose lives were unjustly disrupted and whose freedoms were violated, to help repair the damage to the Italian American community, and to discourage the occurrence of similar injustices and violations of civil liberties in the future; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to recognize these events during October, which is designated as Italian American Heritage Month; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature formally acknowledge that the events of World War II represented a fundamental injustice against Italian Americans, deeply regrets these acts, and reaffirms its commitment to preserving the rights of all people and celebrating their contributions; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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