

Introduced by Senator Liu

June 23, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 114—Relative to California Youth Crisis Line Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 114, as introduced, Liu. California Youth Crisis Line Awareness Month.

This measure would designate July 2010 as California Youth Crisis Line Awareness Month, support the California Youth Crisis Line and its outreach efforts to youth throughout the state, and encourage schools and organizations to share information with young people in their local communities about the California Youth Crisis Line.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 1984, in Assembly Bill 3075 (Chapter 1614 of
- 2 the Statutes of 1984), the Governor and the Legislature recognized
- 3 that there were thousands of disconnected youth living on the
- 4 streets of California and the need for a coordinated system that
- 5 could connect youth to local resources they needed such as food,
- 6 shelter, clothing, health care, and counseling, among others; and
- 7 WHEREAS, In 1986, pursuant to Assembly Bill 3075 (Chapter
- 8 1614 of the Statutes of 1984), the Legislature established the
- 9 California Runaway Hotline, now known as the California Youth
- 10 Crisis Line; and
- 11 WHEREAS, The California Youth Crisis Line’s toll-free
- 12 telephone number is 1-800-843-5200; and
- 13 WHEREAS, For 23 years, the California Coalition for Youth
- 14 has operated the California Youth Crisis Line 24 hours a day, seven

1 days a week, as the state’s only emergency response system for
2 youth in crisis; and

3 WHEREAS, The California Youth Crisis Line is an immediate,
4 reliable, and free service where trained counselors respond to
5 callers with confidential and nonjudgmental crisis-intervention
6 counseling and local resource referrals to assist callers; and

7 WHEREAS, Given that there are over 9 million youth under 18
8 years of age in California, one in eight of the nation’s children,
9 and an additional 3 million more young adults between 18 and 24
10 years of age, inclusive, the California Youth Crisis Line is a
11 much-needed resource; and

12 WHEREAS, The California Youth Crisis Line receives
13 approximately 24,000 calls each year, to which counselors respond
14 with confidential and nonjudgmental crisis-intervention counseling
15 and provide appropriate referrals to youth-serving agencies in
16 callers’ communities throughout the state; and

17 WHEREAS, Often the California Youth Crisis Line is the first
18 resource a youth in crisis can access for assistance, besides law
19 enforcement; and

20 WHEREAS, Counselors provide resources to assist callers with
21 topics, including, but not limited to, family dynamics, running
22 away, homelessness, depression, suicide, teen pregnancy, substance
23 abuse, and more; and

24 WHEREAS, In California, an estimated 250,000 minors and
25 thousands of youth between 18 and 24 years of age, inclusive,
26 experience homelessness each year; and

27 WHEREAS, California ranks 49th in the number of homeless
28 children and 48th in the percentage of children who are homeless;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Nearly 2 million children and youth in California
31 live in poverty and over 600,000 more live in extreme poverty;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, Of the 2.2 million children living in poverty in
34 California, 13 out of every 100 are homeless; and

35 WHEREAS, Youth who “age out” of the foster care system are
36 at an increased risk of homelessness and other at-risk factors. In
37 California, the number of youth aging out of foster care has
38 increased by 55 percent from 1998 to 2008, and now over 5,200
39 youth age out of the foster care system annually; and

1 WHEREAS, In California, suicide is the second leading cause
2 of death for adolescents and young adults; and

3 WHEREAS, Over 15,500 youth in California currently occupy
4 juvenile justice facilities and more than 1,800 youth are on parole;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, It is important that the Legislature recognizes the
7 critical importance of the California Youth Crisis Line to the youth
8 and families of California; now, therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
10 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates July
11 2010 as California Youth Crisis Line Awareness Month; and be
12 it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Legislature and the state support the
14 California Youth Crisis Line and its outreach efforts to youth
15 throughout the state; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages schools and
17 organizations to share information with young people in their local
18 communities about the California Youth Crisis Line; and be it
19 further

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