

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 12, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 17

Introduced by Assembly Member Chang

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

February 2, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 17—Relative to Women and Girls in STEM Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 17, as amended, Chang. Women and Girls in STEM Week.

This measure would designate April 5 to April 11, inclusive, 2015, as Women and Girls in STEM Week, would encourage all citizens and community organizations to support the observance of California Women and Girls in STEM Week by encouraging and celebrating women in the STEM fields.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Science, Technology, Engineering, and
2 Mathematics (STEM) are critical fields for the success of
3 California's economy; and

4 WHEREAS, Many of the fastest growing occupations in the
5 United States require some form of expertise in the areas of STEM;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, STEM careers represent some of the highest-paying
8 positions in any field, thereby providing desirable career
9 opportunities and real pathways out of poverty; and

10 WHEREAS, Preparing students for the STEM workforce is
11 essential to fulfill the demands of our 21st century,
12 innovation-focused economy; and

13 WHEREAS, A significant gender gap exists in the participation
14 of STEM disciplines and workforce; and

15 WHEREAS, Women earn nearly 60 percent of bachelor's
16 degrees, but are underrepresented in STEM-related college degrees,
17 especially in the computer sciences and engineering fields; and

18 WHEREAS, According to the Census Bureau, while women
19 make up nearly one-half of the working population, they only
20 represent 26 percent of the STEM workforce; and

21 WHEREAS, Women represented 34 percent of computer
22 occupations in 1990, but that number declined to 27 percent by
23 2011; and

24 WHEREAS, Women in STEM professions earn one-third more
25 than women in non-STEM-related occupations; and

26 WHEREAS, In California the gender disparities among STEM
27 fields are similar if not more pronounced. Only 15 percent of
28 engineering graduates in California are women and only 15 percent
29 of engineers in the workforce are women; and

30 WHEREAS, Despite underrepresentation in the STEM fields,
31 there are many California female leaders who represent the STEM
32 community and serve as role models for young girls preparing for
33 STEM careers; and

34 WHEREAS, Today's women leaders in STEM stand on the
35 shoulders of innovators that came before them, such as Grace
36 Murray Hopper, a pioneer in her field who is credited for inventing
37 the first computer language compiler; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
39 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages all citizens
40 and community organizations to support the observance of

- 1 California Women and Girls in STEM Week by encouraging and
- 2 celebrating women in the STEM fields; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares April 5 to April 11,
- 4 inclusive, 2015, as Women and Girls in STEM Week; and be it
- 5 further
- 6 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 7 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.