

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 139

Introduced by Assembly Member Thurmond

February 17, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 139—Relative to Child Abuse Prevention Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 139, as introduced, Thurmond. Child Abuse Prevention Month.

This measure would acknowledge the month of April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month, and encourage the people of the State of California to work together to support youth-serving child abuse prevention activities in their communities and schools.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect continue to pose serious
2 threats to our nation’s children; and
3 WHEREAS, In 2013, according to the University of California
4 at Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research, approximately
5 84,000 children in California were found to be victims of abuse
6 or neglect; and
7 WHEREAS, In 2012, according to the State Department of
8 Public Health, 85 children in California died as a result of child
9 abuse and neglect; and
10 WHEREAS, Children who have been abused or neglected have
11 a higher risk of developing various health problems as adults,
12 including alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders,
13 obesity, suicide, and certain chronic diseases; and

1 WHEREAS, California's children deserve to grow up in a safe
2 and nurturing environment free from fear, abuse, and neglect; and

3 WHEREAS, Statewide, child abuse and neglect cases
4 disproportionately involve children of color; and

5 WHEREAS, Prevention of child abuse and neglect depends on
6 the involvement of people throughout the community; and

7 WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect have long-term economic
8 and societal costs; and

9 WHEREAS, Providing community-based prevention services
10 to families whose children may be at risk of child abuse or neglect
11 is less costly than addressing the emotional and physical damage
12 that can result from child abuse and neglect; and

13 WHEREAS, Providing community-based prevention services
14 to those families can help avoid the costs of protective services,
15 law enforcement, the judicial system, foster care, and the treatment
16 of adults recovering from abuse as children; and

17 WHEREAS, Victims of child abuse, whether the abuse is
18 physical, sexual, or emotional, or any combination of these, should
19 have access to a safe place to live, appropriate medical care, and
20 counseling or mental health services; and

21 WHEREAS, In recent years, Prevent Child Abuse America, the
22 Child Abuse Prevention Center, and other groups have organized
23 Blue Ribbon Campaigns to increase public awareness of child
24 abuse and to promote ways to prevent child abuse; and

25 WHEREAS, Each year, the President of the United States issues
26 a proclamation announcing April as National Child Abuse
27 Prevention Month; and

28 WHEREAS, Pinwheels are displayed to increase the awareness
29 of child abuse and to focus on the positive message of preventing
30 child abuse and neglect by supporting families and strengthening
31 communities during Child Abuse Prevention Month; now,
32 therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
34 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature does hereby acknowledge
35 the month of April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month and
36 encourages the people of the State of California to work together
37 to support youth-serving child abuse prevention activities in their
38 communities and schools during that month and throughout the
39 year; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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