

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 4, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 139

Introduced by Assembly Member Thurmond

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, 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-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Quirk, Rendon, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

February 17, 2016

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 139, as amended, 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

1 WHEREAS, In 2013, according to the University of California
2 at Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research, approximately
3 84,000 children in California were found to be victims of abuse
4 or neglect; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2012, according to the State Department of
6 Public Health, 85 children in California died as a result of child
7 abuse and neglect; and

8 WHEREAS, Children who have been abused or neglected have
9 a higher risk of developing various health problems as adults,
10 including alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders,
11 obesity, suicide, and certain chronic diseases; and

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

14 WHEREAS, Statewide, child abuse and neglect cases
15 disproportionately involve children of color; and

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

18 WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect have long-term economic
19 and societal costs; and

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

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

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

32 WHEREAS, In recent years, Prevent Child Abuse America, the
33 Child Abuse Prevention Center, and other groups have organized
34 Blue Ribbon Campaigns to increase public awareness of child
35 abuse and to promote ways to prevent child abuse; and

36 WHEREAS, Each year, the President of the United States issues
37 a proclamation announcing April as National Child Abuse
38 Prevention Month; and

39 WHEREAS, Pinwheels are displayed to increase the awareness
40 of child abuse and to focus on the positive message of preventing

1 child abuse and neglect by supporting families and strengthening
2 communities during Child Abuse Prevention Month; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
5 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature does hereby acknowledge
6 the month of April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month and
7 encourages the people of the State of California to work together
8 to support youth-serving child abuse prevention activities in their
9 communities and schools during that month and throughout the
10 year; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
12 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.