

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 31

**Introduced by Assembly Member Strom-Martin
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Wesson)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aroner, Chan, Cohn, Corbett,
Daucher, Diaz, Firebaugh, Goldberg, Jackson, Kehoe, Leach,
Liu, Maldonado, Negrete McLeod, Oropeza, Pavley, Reyes,
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(Coauthors: Senators Bowen, Costa, Escutia, Figueroa, Karnette,
Kuehl, Murray, Ortiz, Soto, Speier, Torlakson, and Vasconcellos)

February 27, 2001

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 31—Relative to Women’s
History Month and women’s history curriculum.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 31, as introduced, Strom-Martin. Women’s history.

This measure would urge all Californians to celebrate Women’s History Month and join in the commemoration of International Women’s Day on March 8, 2001. This measure would also urge all California public school districts to add an accurate and inclusive women’s history component into approved curriculum and provide the corresponding educational materials for pupils in grades 1 to 12, inclusive. This measure would further urge the State Board of Education to ensure that the state curriculum framework includes accurate and inclusive instruction on the accomplishments and contributions of women throughout history and ensure that state criteria for selecting textbooks include information to guide the selection of textbooks that emphasize the accomplishments and contributions of women throughout history.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Women of every race, culture, class, and ethnic
2 background have participated in the founding and building of our
3 nation and have made important and heroic contributions to the
4 growth and strength of California, the nation, and the world in
5 countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

6 WHEREAS, Women’s History Month will include
7 International Women’s Day on March 8, originally proclaimed in
8 1910, to recognize and commemorate the valuable contributions
9 women have made to the labor movement; and

10 WHEREAS, The state and national observance of Women’s
11 History Month began with a local observance of women’s history
12 in public schools initiated in the fall of 1977 by the Sonoma
13 County Commission on the Status of Women; and

14 WHEREAS, The National Women’s History Project has
15 adopted “Celebrating Women of Courage and Vision” as the
16 theme for Women’s History Month 2001, inviting all Californians
17 to honor the courage and vision of all women, those famous and
18 those known to only a few, whose lives have inspired others; and

19 WHEREAS, Women have played and continue to play a critical
20 economic, cultural, and social role in every aspect of life by
21 constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside
22 and outside of the home; and

23 WHEREAS, Women have made significant achievements and
24 valuable contributions in many fields, including science,
25 government, sports, music, art, literature, business, education,
26 technology, medicine, and journalism; and

27 WHEREAS, Women were early leaders in the forefront of every
28 major progressive social change movement, including the struggle
29 to secure their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, the
30 abolitionist movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil
31 rights movement, the peace movement, and other movements
32 which helped to create a more fair and just society for all; and

33 WHEREAS, The year 2001 celebrates the 90th anniversary of
34 California women winning the right to vote; and

35 WHEREAS, California is the first state in the Union to elect two
36 women to serve in the United States Senate; Senator Dianne
37 Feinstein and Senator Barbara Boxer; and



1 WHEREAS, California is the only state to host two Women’s
2 National Basketball Association (WNBA) teams; the Los Angeles
3 Sparks and the Sacramento Monarchs; and

4 WHEREAS, Despite these extensive contributions the role of
5 women in history has been consistently overlooked and
6 undervalued in the literature, teaching, and study of history in
7 California public schools; and

8 WHEREAS, Education of California’s children about the
9 important achievements and contributions made by women is in
10 the best interest of all Californians and the future of this state, and
11 will better enable girls and boys to gain an understanding of
12 today’s world and to work together to create a future with fewer
13 barriers, greater opportunities, and respect for all people; and

14 WHEREAS, The celebration of Women’s History Month will
15 provide an opportunity for schools and communities to focus
16 attention on the important historical role and accomplishments of
17 women, and for students in particular to benefit from an awareness
18 of these contributions; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
21 takes pleasure in honoring the important contributions of women
22 throughout history, and proclaims the month of March 2001 as
23 Women’s History Month; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California urges
25 all Californians to celebrate Women’s History Month and join in
26 the commemoration of International Women’s Day on March 8,
27 2001; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California urges
29 all California public school districts to add an accurate and
30 inclusive women’s history component into approved curriculum
31 and provide the corresponding educational materials for pupils in
32 grades 1 to 12, inclusive; and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California urges
34 the State Board of Education to ensure that the state curriculum
35 framework includes accurate and inclusive instruction on the
36 accomplishments and contributions of women throughout history;
37 and be it further

38 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California urges
39 the State Board of Education to ensure that state criteria for
40 selecting textbooks include information to guide the selection of



1 textbooks that emphasize the accomplishments and contributions
2 of women throughout history; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the
4 State Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public
5 Instruction, the California Commission on the Status of Women,
6 and all local commissions on the status of women.

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8 CORRECTIONS

9 **Heading — Line 6.**

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