

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 89**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Goldberg**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bermudez, Chu, Diaz, Dutra, Firebaugh, Hancock, Kehoe, Koretz, Laird, Leno, Lieber, Longville, Lowenthal, Montanez, Nation, Pavley, Ridley-Thomas, Vargas, and Wiggins**

**(Coauthor: Senator Kuehl)**

April 8, 2003

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 89—Relative to the Boy Scouts of America.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 89, as introduced, Goldberg. Boy Scouts of America.

This measure would recognize the efforts of boy scouts who earn the rank of Eagle Scout and encourage the Boy Scouts of America to accept for membership and leadership positions all qualified boys and men, without discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or religious belief.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Since the founding of the Boy Scouts of America,
- 2 millions of boy scouts have taken the experience of scouting and
- 3 gone on to contribute great things to society; and
- 4 WHEREAS, A boy scout can be followed, as he is a leader in
- 5 his troop and community, regardless of the scout's race, color,
- 6 religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, sexual
- 7 orientation, or disability; and

1 WHEREAS, The list of former boy scouts includes diverse role  
2 models and leaders such as John F. Kennedy, Bill Clinton, Gerald  
3 Ford, Neil Armstrong, Hank Aaron, Nolan Ryan, Norm Mineta,  
4 Branford Marsalis, Joe Thiesman, Merlin Olson, Alberto Salazar,  
5 Paul McCartney, Steven Spielberg, James Stewart, Michael  
6 Moore, and others; and

7 WHEREAS, A boy scout lives honorably, not only because  
8 honor is important to him, but because of the significant example  
9 he sets for other scouts; and

10 WHEREAS, Loyalty to his troop and brother scouts makes him  
11 “pitch-in” and carry his share of the load, recognizing the  
12 devotion to his family and the community in which he lives; and

13 WHEREAS, A boy scout’s courage means standing up for what  
14 he believes in without compromising his own beliefs; and

15 WHEREAS, A boy scout looks forward to each day, seeking his  
16 share of the world’s work to do; and

17 WHEREAS, Honor, loyalty, and courage are hallmarks of  
18 scouts who admirably represent the community, council, and troop  
19 in their daily lives; and

20 WHEREAS, A boy scout always wears a smile as a constant  
21 reminder of cheerfulness; and

22 WHEREAS, A boy scout is helpful in service and will always  
23 “Be Prepared” to put forth his best; and

24 WHEREAS, The character traits represented by boy scouts are  
25 symbols present in the boy scout badge, worn proudly on the  
26 uniform, by youth in this state and across the country; and

27 WHEREAS, It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to  
28 serve others by helping to instill values in young people, and in  
29 other ways to prepare them to make ethical choices over their  
30 lifetime in achieving their full potential; and

31 WHEREAS, The values that the Boy Scouts of America strives  
32 to instill are found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law; and

33 WHEREAS, Boy scouts are required to abide by the Scout Law  
34 and Scout Oath which proudly uses such terms as “honor,”  
35 “trustworthy,” and “loyal;” and

36 WHEREAS, Many boy scouts have been forced to hide their  
37 identity in contradiction to the Scout Mission, Law, and Oath, and  
38 boy scouts and scout leaders who were open about their sexual  
39 orientation have been expelled from scouting; and



1 WHEREAS, The policy of the Boy Scouts of America to bar  
2 from membership or leadership positions otherwise qualified  
3 individuals solely on the basis of their sexual orientation or  
4 religious belief causes harm to the innumerable boys and men such  
5 as James Dale who, regardless of their hard work and merits, are  
6 denied the opportunity to hold the rank of Eagle Scout or  
7 participate in any way in the Boy Scouts of America; and

8 WHEREAS, Many former boy scouts have left scouting and  
9 formed their own inclusive organization, Scouting for All, in an  
10 effort to bring the values of scouting to youth without  
11 discrimination; and

12 WHEREAS, The discriminatory policy of the Boy Scouts of  
13 America is contrary to the policy of the State of California; and

14 WHEREAS, Other similar organizations such as the Girl  
15 Scouts, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, and the Boys and Girls Club  
16 serve as role models for the Boy Scouts of America because they  
17 do not discriminate against youth and adults; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
19 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the  
20 outstanding efforts of boy scouts who, through persistence and  
21 hard work, earn the rank of Eagle Scout; and be it further

22 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages the Boy Scouts of  
23 America to accept for membership and leadership positions,  
24 including the rank of Eagle Scout, all qualified boys and men,  
25 without discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or  
26 religious belief; and be it further

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

