

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 69

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 82

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 69—Relative to the Boy Scouts of America.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 18, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 69, 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.

WHEREAS, Since the founding of the Boy Scouts of America, millions of Boy Scouts have taken the experience of scouting and gone on to contribute great things to society; and

WHEREAS, A Boy Scout can be followed, as he is a leader in his troop and community, regardless of the scout's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, or disability; and

WHEREAS, The list of former Boy Scouts includes diverse role models and leaders; and

WHEREAS, A Boy Scout lives honorably, not only because honor is important to him, but because of the significant example he sets for other scouts; and

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

WHEREAS, A Boy Scout's courage means standing up for what he believes in without compromising his own beliefs; and

WHEREAS, A Boy Scout looks forward to each day, seeking his share of the world's work to do; and

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

WHEREAS, A Boy Scout always wears a smile as a constant reminder of cheerfulness; and

WHEREAS, A Boy Scout is helpful in service and will always "Be Prepared" to put forth his best; and

WHEREAS, The character traits represented by Boy Scouts are symbols present in the Boy Scout badge, worn proudly on the uniform, by youth in this state and across the country; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Many Boy Scouts have been forced to hide their identity in contradiction to the Scout Mission, Law, and Oath, and Boy Scouts and scout leaders who were open about their sexual orientation have been expelled from scouting; and

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

WHEREAS, Many former Boy Scouts have left scouting and formed their own inclusive organization, Scouting for All, in an effort to bring the values of scouting to youth without discrimination; and

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

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

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes the outstanding efforts of Boy Scouts who, through persistence and hard work, earn the rank of Eagle Scout; and be it further

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

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