

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 13, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 6

Introduced by Assembly Member Ma

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Benoit, Berg, Blakeslee, Brownley, Caballero, Charles Calderon, Carter, Cook, Coto, Davis, De Leon, DeSaulnier, DeVore, Duvall, Dymally, Emmerson, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Galgiani, Garcia, Garrick, Hancock, Hayashi, Horton, Huffman, Jones, Karnette, Krekorian, Laird, Leno, Levine, Lieber, Lieu, Mendoza, Mullin, Nakanishi, Nava, Niello, Nunez, Parra, Plescia, Portantino, Richardson, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Smyth, Solorio, Strickland, Swanson, Torrico, Villines, and Wolk)

January 8, 2007

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 6—Relative to teenage dating violence.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 6, as amended, Ma. Teenage dating violence.

This measure would recognize February 5 to 9, 2007, as Teenage Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Teenage dating violence is a serious and growing
- 2 problem throughout California; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Dating violence is controlling, abusive, and
- 4 aggressive behavior in a relationship, that can occur in heterosexual
- 5 or homosexual relationships. It can include verbal, emotional,
- 6 physical, or sexual abuse, or a combination of any of those; and

1 WHEREAS, One in three teenagers has experienced violence
2 in a dating relationship; and

3 WHEREAS, Anyone can be a victim of dating violence. Both
4 boys and girls are victims, but boys and girls tend to abuse their
5 partners in different ways. Girls are more likely to yell, threaten
6 to hurt themselves, pinch, slap, scratch, or kick, while boys are
7 more likely to physically injure or force unwanted sexual activity.
8 Some teenage victims experience violence occasionally while
9 others are abused much more often; and

10 WHEREAS, Young women, ages 16 to 24 years, inclusive,
11 experience the highest rates of dating violence; and

12 WHEREAS, Teenage victims are highly vulnerable to being
13 revictimized; one study found that 80 percent of youths reporting
14 violent behavior had been victimized two or more times; and

15 WHEREAS, Among female pupils ages 15 to 20 years,
16 inclusive, who reported at least one violent act during a dating
17 relationship, 24 percent reported experiencing extremely violent
18 incidents such as rape or the use of weapons against them; and

19 WHEREAS, In a study of California high school pupils, up to
20 7 percent indicated that they were victims of teenage dating
21 violence; and

22 WHEREAS, Approximately one in five female public high
23 school pupils reported ever experiencing physical or sexual
24 violence from dating partners; and

25 WHEREAS, Teenagers are less likely to report their
26 victimization than adults because of the shock, shame, and stigma
27 attached to being a victim of a crime. These obstacles represent a
28 barrier to vulnerable teenagers seeking help; and

29 WHEREAS, Increased awareness of teenage dating violence is
30 the first step toward prevention of this type of abuse; and

31 WHEREAS, Teenagers deserve to be in a relationship free of
32 the fear of violence. They have a right to have safe relationships;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, Governmental, private organizations, public
35 officials as well as private citizens must work together to raise the
36 awareness of the high incidence of teenage dating violence and to
37 promote prevention strategies; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
39 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature proclaims February 5 to

- 1 9, 2007, as Teenage Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention
- 2 Week; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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