

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 42

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 129

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 42—Relative to domestic violence.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 5, 2008.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 42, Garcia. Domestic violence.

This measure would urge Congress to protect funding and maintain programs, laws, regulations, and policies that assist victims of domestic violence, as specified.

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a major problem in both California and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is often referred to as intimate partner violence, which includes violence between spouses, couples who are dating, and former spouses or partners; and

WHEREAS, Around the world one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused during her lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Women 16 to 24 years of age are consistently reported as the group most at risk of abuse; and

WHEREAS, Women of all races are equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence often involves physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and psychological abuse; and

WHEREAS, Every year almost 6 percent of women in California suffer physical injuries from domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Women victimized by abuse are more likely to be diagnosed with serious health problems including depression, panic attacks, high-risk behaviors such as substance abuse and sexual risk taking, as well as migraine headaches, chronic pain, arthritis, high blood pressure, inconsistent use of birth control, and delayed entry into prenatal care; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, 134 murders, with 110 female victims and 24 male victims, were the result of intimate partner violence in California; and

WHEREAS, Pregnant women are frequent targets of abuse, and as a result, are placed at risk for low-birth weight babies and preterm labor; and

WHEREAS, Fifty percent of the men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently abused their children; and

WHEREAS, About 916,000 children were exposed to intimate partner violence at home in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Crime and incarceration of youth are often associated with a history of child abuse and exposure to domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Nearly one in five women who went hungry because they did not have enough money to buy food were victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Ten percent of all domestic violence victims are male; and

WHEREAS, A change in any funding or policy discouraging victims to report incidents of domestic violence, whether male or female, would result in victims remaining in violent relationships just to avoid deportation and abandonment of their children, which would cause those children to seek public assistance, end up in foster care, and become more likely to model domestic violence behaviors themselves; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the California Legislature urges Congress to protect funding and maintain programs, laws, regulations, and policies that assist victims of domestic violence; and

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.