

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2007

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 26**

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**Introduced by Senator Yee**  
*(Coauthor: Senator Ducheny)*

March 5, 2007

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 26—Relative to World Languages and Cultures Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 26, as amended, Yee. Language education: World Languages and Cultures Month.

This measure would declare the month of May 2007 to be World Languages and Cultures Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 2006, under the direction of the President of the  
2 United States, the United States Department of Education, the  
3 United States Department of State, the United States Department  
4 of Defense, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
5 collaborated to establish the National Security Language Initiative  
6 (NSLI); and  
7 WHEREAS, The NSLI is designed to dramatically increase the  
8 number of Americans learning critical need languages, including  
9 Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi, Farsi, and other languages,  
10 through new and expanded programs for kindergarten through  
11 university and into the workforce; and  
12 WHEREAS, In order to meet the mission of the NSLI,  
13 Americans must be able to communicate in other languages, a

1 challenge most California educational agencies are totally  
2 unprepared to meet; and

3 WHEREAS, The President of the United States in 2006 proposed  
4 the American Competitiveness Initiative to ensure that our students  
5 develop the 21st century skills they need to compete and thrive in  
6 the competitive global economy; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Secretary of Education, in her  
8 Statement on International Education Week 2006, declared that  
9 “Technology has leveled the playing field and flattened the world  
10 ... and has illustrated the importance of foreign languages in  
11 communicating and forming partnerships with citizens from other  
12 cultures and countries”; and

13 WHEREAS, The Committee for Economic Development (CED)  
14 issued a report in 2006 entitled “Education for Global Leadership:  
15 The Importance of International Studies and Foreign Language  
16 Education for U.S. Economic and National Security”; and

17 WHEREAS, The CED report recommends the expansion of  
18 foreign language programs at every level of education to address  
19 the paucity of Americans fluent in foreign languages, especially  
20 critical, less-commonly taught languages; and

21 WHEREAS, California, due to its rich heritage of linguistic and  
22 cultural resources, is uniquely poised to play a leadership role in  
23 advancing the various national and state initiatives to expand the  
24 teaching and learning of foreign languages; and

25 WHEREAS, Proficiency in more than one language enhances  
26 communication and strengthens positive interactions among people  
27 in the United States and around the world; and

28 WHEREAS, The study of languages improves the academic  
29 and literacy skills of pupils, leading to increased levels of  
30 achievement on verbal and quantitative examinations; and

31 WHEREAS, The study of languages and cultures provides pupils  
32 with the opportunity to gain insight into the history, heritage, and  
33 perspectives of all California residents and of residents of other  
34 communities around the world; and

35 WHEREAS, The conditions of the current international economy  
36 require that people be able to interact effectively with individuals  
37 from different cultural backgrounds; and

38 WHEREAS, Linguistic and cultural competence is critical to  
39 the security needs of the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, The study of languages and cultures increases  
2 understanding of, and encourages respect for, people of different  
3 backgrounds; and

4 WHEREAS, California language organizations are participating  
5 in a 10-year Discover Languages, Discover the World! campaign  
6 sponsored by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign  
7 Languages to increase public awareness in the United States of  
8 the importance of providing educational instruction in languages  
9 and cultures; and

10 WHEREAS, During the month of May 2007 the California  
11 Language Teachers' Association, the California Foreign Language  
12 Project, the University of California Consortium for Language  
13 Learning and Teaching, and other educational organizations  
14 throughout California will sponsor special activities to promote  
15 awareness of the importance of California residents being able to  
16 interact successfully in multilingual and multicultural contexts in  
17 the United States and around the world; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the  
20 month of May 2007, as World Languages and Cultures Month,  
21 during which time the Legislature encourages all educational  
22 communities in California to celebrate languages and cultures with  
23 appropriate pupil activities and programs that promote an  
24 understanding of the diversity of languages and cultures in  
25 California and the benefit that they represent to our nation, and  
26 urges all residents to become interested in and give full support to  
27 quality language and cultural programs for all pupils in California  
28 schools; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the ~~Chief Clerk~~ *Secretary* of the Senate transmit  
30 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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