

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2010
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 15, 2010
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 32

Introduced by Assembly Member Monning
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Brownley and Evans)

February 16, 2010

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 32—Relative to gender discrimination.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 32, as amended, Monning. Gender discrimination.

This measure would memorialize the United States Senate to ratify, and the President to sign, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and would memorialize the Congress of the United States and the President to enact appropriate legislation that addresses the concerns expressed in this measure.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, On December 18, 1979, the Convention on the
2 Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was
3 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and after the
4 20th nation ratified the convention on September 3, 1981, it became
5 an international treaty; and
6 WHEREAS, The treaty brings the female half of humanity into
7 the focus of human rights concerns and establishes not only an

1 international bill of rights for women, but also an agenda for action
2 by countries to guarantee those rights; and

3 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to creating
4 conditions within which women can exercise and enjoy basic rights
5 and freedoms; and

6 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to affirmative
7 action for women until parity with men is reached; and

8 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to abolishing
9 all forms of slavery and prostitution of women; and

10 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to securing
11 women's right to vote, to stand for election, and to hold public
12 office; and

13 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to providing
14 equal opportunity for women to represent their countries
15 internationally; and

16 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to allowing
17 women the right to change or retain their nationality and that of
18 their children, regardless of marital status; and

19 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
20 girls' and women's equal access to quality education in all subjects
21 and at all levels, including continuing and vocational programs
22 for women; and

23 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
24 equal employment, vocational, and promotion opportunities, job
25 security, and equal pay for work of equal value; and

26 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
27 that women who are married, pregnant, or have children have the
28 right to work and the right to maternity leave and other appropriate
29 benefits; and

30 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
31 that child care is available, and that pregnant women are protected
32 from work that may be hazardous to their health or the health of
33 their future children; and

34 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to providing
35 adequate health services to women, including family planning
36 where necessary, and prenatal care, including nutrition for pregnant
37 and lactating mothers; and

38 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
39 access to financial credit for women; and

1 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
2 the right of women to participate in recreational, cultural, and
3 athletic activities; and

4 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to giving
5 special attention to all the provisions of the treaty to women who
6 reside in rural areas; and

7 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
8 women equal rights in choosing a spouse, name, or occupation; to
9 marry and divorce; to own, buy, sell, and administer property; to
10 share parenting roles, regardless of marital status; and to choose
11 the number and spacing of their children, including adoption or
12 guardianship; and

13 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to
14 establishing a minimum age for marriage and to ensuring that all
15 marriages are entered into freely, by mutual consent; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1979, after the United Nations General Assembly
17 adopted the treaty, President Carter sent it to the Senate Foreign
18 Relations Committee for ratification, where it ~~has remained ever~~
19 ~~since~~ *was subsequently approved by the committee with bipartisan*
20 *support but never scheduled for a vote on the Senate floor because*
21 *such treaties require a two-thirds vote of support; and*

22 WHEREAS, Over six million women are beaten by their
23 husbands or boyfriends each year in the United States, and 1,500
24 of them die from their injuries; and

25 WHEREAS, One hundred eighty-five countries have ratified
26 the treaty; and

27 WHEREAS, The United States of America is considered by
28 many nations to be the leader of the democratic societies of the
29 world and the leading proponent of human rights, yet the United
30 States of America is the only industrialized nation in the world
31 that has not ratified the treaty; and

32 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama and Secretary of State
33 Hillary Clinton should be strongly urged to place the treaty in the
34 highest category of priority to accelerate its passage through the
35 Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and

36 WHEREAS, The Legislature should exhort the Senate Foreign
37 Relations Committee *once again* to pass the treaty favorably out
38 of committee as soon as possible; now, therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
40 *California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California*

1 requests that the United States Congress ratify, and President
2 Obama sign, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination
3 of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California
5 respectfully requests the Congress and the President to enact
6 appropriate legislation that would address the concerns set forth
7 in this measure; and be it further
8 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
9 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
10 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority
11 Leader of the Senate, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,
12 the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and to each Senator and
13 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
14 States.

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