

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 59

Introduced by Assembly Members Nielsen and Ma

April 13, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 59—Relative to Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 59, as introduced, Nielsen. Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

This measure would recognize the week of April 26, 2009, through May 2, 2009, as Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Violent crime continues to exist in California and
- 2 crime in one part of the state, or against one person, affects our
- 3 entire sense of well-being; and
- 4 WHEREAS, All Californians are affected by crime, not just the
- 5 victims of violent crime; and
- 6 WHEREAS, The most effective aid that can be provided to
- 7 victims of crime is to prevent crime from taking place in the first
- 8 place; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Since 1981, National Crime Victims’ Rights Week
- 10 has raised awareness of the special needs of crime victims; and
- 11 WHEREAS, The theme for this commemoration of National
- 12 Crime Victims’ Rights Week is “25 Years of Rebuilding Lives:
- 13 Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act”; and
- 14 WHEREAS, 2009 is a landmark year for crime victims and
- 15 survivors and those who serve them; and

1 WHEREAS, The respect and protection of victims' rights within
2 the legal process is one of the most critical components of an
3 effective criminal justice system; and

4 WHEREAS, Victims and witnesses of crime require special
5 attention to ensure that they are thoroughly informed about, and
6 participate effectively in, the criminal justice system; and

7 WHEREAS, To the maximum extent allowed by law, victims
8 of violent crime should receive compensation for their losses; and

9 WHEREAS, Each day, thousands of victims and witnesses
10 receive assistance from victim support organizations,
11 victim-witness assistance centers, private service providers, and
12 state and local governments; and

13 WHEREAS, The criminal justice system in this state must persist
14 in its effort to better coordinate and improve the quality of services
15 provided to victims and witnesses; and

16 WHEREAS, California citizens enshrined victims' rights in the
17 California Constitution in 1982 through the passage of Proposition
18 8, the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights; and

19 WHEREAS, California citizens reaffirmed and afforded
20 additional rights to victims in the California Constitution and under
21 California Law in 2008 through the passage of Proposition 9, the
22 Victim's Bill of Rights Act of 2008: Marsy's Law; and

23 WHEREAS, Each year, the observance of the National Crime
24 Victims' Rights Week focuses on the problems confronting victims
25 of crime and the services available to support these victims; and

26 WHEREAS, The remembrances observed during National Crime
27 Victims' Rights Week promote awareness of victim issues and
28 acknowledge the combined efforts of citizens, government, and
29 the criminal justice system to improve victims' services in
30 California; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
32 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby recognizes the
33 week of April 26, 2009, through May 2, 2009, as Crime Victims'
34 Rights Week in California; and be it further

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

O