

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 110**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Conway and Beall  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chesbro, Eng, Gilmore, Hall,  
Harkey, Hill, Jones, Bonnie Lowenthal, Nestande, Niello, Saldana,  
and Audra Strickland)**

January 27, 2010

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 110—Relative to Step Up California Month and Step Up California Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 110, as introduced, Conway. Step Up California Month and Step Up California Day.

This measure would designate the month of February 2010 and February 2011 as Step Up California Month, designate February 3, 2010, and February 3, 2011, as Step Up California Day, and encourage and support various activities relating to the reduction of poverty.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, According to the decades-old federal poverty
- 2 measure, California's poverty rate was 12.8 percent and is projected
- 3 to reach 17 percent by 2014; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Due to higher costs of living in the state, California
- 5 families need an income that is two to three times higher than the
- 6 poverty line just to make ends meet; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Families unable to save and that live paycheck to
- 8 paycheck, just one layoff or hospital bill away from state support,
- 9 make up the asset poor in California and outnumber those officially
- 10 considered to be in poverty; and

1 WHEREAS, One in four homeless Americans is a Californian  
2 and the housing crisis has significantly impacted California. As  
3 of August 2007, four out of the top 10 metropolitan areas for  
4 foreclosures in the United States were in California. Nearly 250  
5 residential developments with a combined total of 9,389 houses  
6 and condominiums, and an estimated worth of \$3.5 billion, are  
7 now on hold. Rising foreclosures are putting families at risk and  
8 decreasing home values are endangering elderly people whose  
9 main asset is their home; and

10 WHEREAS, One in four families that lose their source of income  
11 would only last three months or less on savings. While a source  
12 of income maintains a family, savings and assets make higher  
13 education, entrepreneurship, debt reduction, and retirement  
14 possible; and

15 WHEREAS, 2009 is the third consecutive year of drought in  
16 California, resulting in record unemployment rates, with over 40  
17 percent unemployment in some communities, food shortages, and  
18 adverse impacts on the stability of families, businesses,  
19 communities, and ecosystems; and

20 WHEREAS, The demand for basic safety net services from  
21 public and nonprofit service providers is dramatically increasing  
22 while historic cuts in state funding and a deteriorating economy  
23 are reducing or eliminating both public and private financial  
24 resources for these services; and

25 WHEREAS, The most vulnerable members of our communities  
26 who are poor, including the severely disabled, the sick, the elderly,  
27 the seriously mentally ill, and the dying, may always need  
28 assistance from others to survive; and

29 WHEREAS, The poor are two to five times more likely to suffer  
30 from a mental disorder than any other group and are more likely  
31 to encounter significant barriers to obtaining treatment; and

32 WHEREAS, Poverty particularly affects the elderly and the  
33 young. More than 800,000 California seniors are unable to pay for  
34 basic needs, including housing, food, transportation, and medical  
35 care. Approximately 22 percent of California's children are poor,  
36 and the impact of poverty on young children is significant and  
37 enduring; and

38 WHEREAS, Families where adults lack a high school diploma  
39 have a poverty rate of 41 percent and single-mother families have  
40 a poverty rate of 37 percent, highlighting the importance of

1 education at a time when education becomes more expensive and  
2 less available to families; and

3 WHEREAS, California has the eighth largest economy in the  
4 world, has the largest population of any state, and has been at the  
5 forefront of technological and cultural innovation throughout its  
6 history; and

7 WHEREAS, For the good of our great state, Californians must  
8 step up and apply this innovative spirit to reducing poverty and  
9 increasing economic opportunities; and

10 WHEREAS, There are multiple ways that individuals,  
11 organizations, and corporations, can step up to cut poverty,  
12 regardless of political or religious affiliation, race, gender, and  
13 economic status; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature commends the Step Up  
16 California Campaign to Cut Poverty and all the individuals and  
17 organizations working to reduce poverty in California; and be it  
18 further

19 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all Californians to  
20 help those in need, including volunteering time and donating money  
21 to direct service providers; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Legislature supports the broadening of  
23 economic opportunities and asset ownership for all Californians  
24 in order to reduce poverty and strengthen the economy, and shall  
25 advance policies that support those ends; and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Legislature designates February 2010 and  
27 February 2011 as Step Up California Month, and February 3, 2010,  
28 and February 3, 2011, as Step Up California Day in California;  
29 and be it further

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

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