
Introduced by Senator Steinberg
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Bass)
(Coauthor: Senator Wolk)

April 20, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35—Relative to Foster Care Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 35, as introduced, Steinberg. Foster Care Month.
This measure would designate May 2009 as Foster Care Month.
Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In California, there are 75,000 children and youth
2 in foster care who need and deserve safe permanent connections
3 to loving adults, stable homes, and adequate preparation for a
4 secure future; and
5 WHEREAS, The needs of children and youth for a sense of
6 belonging and unconditional emotional commitment are best met
7 in families; and
8 WHEREAS, Many California counties have successfully
9 supported permanent family connections for foster youth, provided
10 support for families at risk of entering the child welfare system,
11 and changed practices to fully engage youth, family, and
12 communities, thereby reducing the number of children and youth
13 in foster care; and
14 WHEREAS, California recognizes the enduring and valuable
15 contribution of relatives, foster parents, and adoptive parents who
16 open their hearts, families, and homes to vulnerable children and
17 youth; and

1 WHEREAS, California recognizes the numerous individuals
2 and public and private organizations that work to ensure that the
3 needs of children and youth living in, and leaving, foster care are
4 met, that help to provide foster children and youth and former
5 foster children and youth with vital connections to their siblings,
6 and that help launch young people into successful adulthood; and

7 WHEREAS, There is a new federal law, the Fostering
8 Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008
9 (Public Law 110-351), that offers opportunities to promote
10 permanent families for children in foster care, improves outcomes
11 for older youth in foster care, increases support for Native
12 American foster children and youth, improves the quality of staff
13 working with children and youth in the child welfare system,
14 expands our support of relative and adoptive caregivers, and assists
15 older foster youth in securing meaningful supportive transitions
16 from foster care; and

17 WHEREAS, The new federal act affirms California's leadership
18 and success in pioneering innovative child welfare approaches;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, California is committed to working in partnership
21 with the federal government to improve the lives and futures of
22 all children and youth touched by the child welfare system; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates May 2009 as
26 Foster Care Month; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
28 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.