
Introduced by Senator Cedillo

September 3, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 58—Relative to hate speech.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 58, as introduced, Cedillo. Freedom of speech: hate speech.

This measure would condemn the increase of hate speech in the media, particularly against Latinos, and urge for accurate and fair reporting to counter hate speech on television, radio, cable, and the Internet.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The media plays a critical role in how the United
2 States Latino community is portrayed, including how Latinos are
3 presented and portrayed to Latino children and to the broader
4 society; and

5 WHEREAS, Hate speech has been defined as speech which
6 threatens imminent unlawful action, but also, as speech which
7 creates a climate of hate and prejudice, which in turn may foster
8 the commission of hate crimes; and

9 WHEREAS, There has been an increase in hate speech in the
10 media, and in particular, hate speech on television, radio, cable,
11 and on the Internet; and

12 WHEREAS, The increase of hate speech in the media, in
13 addition to lack of diversity in the media, media consolidation,
14 and media concentration, are having a profoundly negative impact
15 on the civil rights of Latinos and on society as a whole; and

16 WHEREAS, Studies indicate that there is a correlation between
17 hate speech in the media and hate crimes against Latinos; and

1 WHEREAS, Unsubstantiated, inflammatory, and inaccurate
2 information is disseminated and promoted in the public sphere
3 about undocumented immigrants and Latinos in general, causing
4 an escalating life-threatening movement against all Latinos; and

5 WHEREAS, A recently released FBI report documents that
6 Hispanics comprise 62.8 percent of victims of crimes motivated
7 by a bias toward the victims' ethnicity or national origin, an
8 increase of 35 percent from 2003 to 2006. During that same period,
9 more than 300 anti-immigration groups formed, with half labeled
10 as "nativist extremists." Moreover, the violence is directed at all
11 Latinos, whether undocumented or not, because of the
12 indistinguishable characteristics of Latino subgroups; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature condemns the increase
16 of hate speech in the media and demands accurate and fair reporting
17 as well as equal access to counter one-sided hate speech in the
18 media, and in particular, hate speech on television, radio, cable,
19 and the Internet; and be it further

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