

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 58

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 43

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

[Filed with Secretary of State June 28, 2010.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 58, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature condemns the increase of hate speech in the media and demands accurate and fair reporting as well as equal access

to counter one-sided hate speech in the media, and in particular, hate speech on television, radio, cable, and the Internet; and be it further

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