

**Introduced by Senator Simitian**

March 25, 2010

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 95—Relative to World War II.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 95, as introduced, Simitian. World War II: Italian Americans.

This measure would set forth the Legislature's formal acknowledgment that the treatment of Italian Americans during World War II represented a fundamental injustice against Italian Americans, its deepest regrets of these acts, and its reaffirmation of a commitment to preserving the rights of all people and celebrating their contributions.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Since 1852, over 15 million Italians have
- 2 immigrated to the United States, bringing with them a culture and
- 3 heritage that has enriched the lives of all Americans; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The treatment of Italian Americans during World
- 5 War II was authorized by the Alien Enemies Act, which was passed
- 6 by Congress, and additional authority was based on Executive
- 7 Order No. 9066 (issued February 19, 1942) and Executive Order
- 8 No. 9102 (issued March 18, 1942). These orders required Italian
- 9 born citizens and their families to carry identification cards, face
- 10 travel restrictions, obey curfews, and also authorized the seizure
- 11 of personal property; and
- 12 WHEREAS, 10,000 Italian Americans living on the West Coast
- 13 were forced to leave their homes and were prohibited from entering
- 14 coastal zones during World War II; and

1 WHEREAS, Thousands of Italian American immigrants were  
2 arrested and hundreds were interned in military camps during  
3 World War II; and

4 WHEREAS, The story of the treatment of Italian Americans  
5 during World War II needs to be told in order to acknowledge that  
6 these events happened, to remember those whose lives were  
7 unjustly disrupted and whose freedoms were violated, to help repair  
8 the damage to the Italian American community, and to discourage  
9 the occurrence of similar injustices and violations of civil liberties  
10 in the future; now, therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
12 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature formally acknowledge  
13 that the events of World War II represented a fundamental injustice  
14 against Italian Americans, deeply regrets these acts, and reaffirms  
15 its commitment to preserving the rights of all people and  
16 celebrating their contributions; and be it further

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