

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 17

Introduced by Assembly Member Solorio

August 30, 2011

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 17—Relative to law enforcement programs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 17, as introduced, Solorio. Law enforcement: federal funding.

This measure would urge Congress and the President of the United States to increase funding for specified law enforcement and crime prevention programs and to pay the full costs of incarcerating undocumented criminals, as provided.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The federal government provides leadership and
2 services in funding administration and criminal justice policy
3 development to support the State of California to achieve safer
4 communities; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice, through
6 the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) which is a
7 component of the Office of Justice Programs, administers various
8 law enforcement program initiatives; and

9 WHEREAS, BJA provides support for law enforcement, courts,
10 corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention
11 initiatives that strengthen the nation’s criminal justice system; and

12 WHEREAS, It is recognized that most of the responsibility for
13 crime control and prevention falls to law enforcement officers in
14 states, cities, and neighborhoods and the federal government can

1 be effective in these areas only to the extent that it can enter into
2 partnerships with these officers in the State of California; and

3 WHEREAS, Various law enforcement program initiatives such
4 as the federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program, the
5 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, the Southwest Border
6 Prosecution Initiative, and the State Criminal Alien Assistance
7 Program are carried out in partnership with local law enforcement
8 officers; and

9 WHEREAS, The State of California recognizes that these
10 programs have resulted in major innovations in crime prevention,
11 including drug courts, gang prevention strategies, and prisoner
12 reentry programs; and

13 WHEREAS, The federal State Criminal Alien Assistance
14 Program was created in 1994 for the purpose of reimbursing states
15 for the costs of incarcerating undocumented criminals; and

16 WHEREAS, Federal law provides that the State Criminal Alien
17 Assistance Program provide federal payments to states and
18 localities that incur costs for incarcerating undocumented criminals;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, There are almost 17,000 self-reported
21 undocumented criminals in the California prison system; and

22 WHEREAS, In the 2009–10 fiscal year, the cost per incarcerated
23 individual in California was \$52,363 each year; and

24 WHEREAS, In the 2009–10 fiscal year, it cost the State of
25 California over \$885 million to house these undocumented
26 criminals; and

27 WHEREAS, In the 2009–10 fiscal year, the State of California
28 was reimbursed from the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program
29 in an amount equal to only 11 cents for every dollar spent to house
30 these undocumented criminals; and

31 WHEREAS, Budget cuts for public funding for law enforcement
32 programs at both the national and state level may have a
33 devastating effect on the viability of crime prevention programs;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, At a time when adverse economic conditions may
36 lead to increased crime, it is important that the federal government
37 increase funding to support our law enforcement officers, who risk
38 their lives daily to keep Americans safe; now, therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
40 *California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully urges Congress*

1 and the President of the United States to increase funding for these
2 law enforcement and crime prevention programs and to pay the
3 full costs of incarcerating undocumented criminals; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
5 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
6 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
7 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
8 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
9 States.

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