

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 82

Introduced by Assembly Member Mitchell

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Carter, Cedillo, Chesbro, Cook, Davis, Dickinson, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Beth Gaines, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Lara, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mansoor, Miller, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

August 24, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 82—Relative to domestic violence.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 82, as amended, Mitchell. Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This measure would recognize October 2011 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urge all Californians to take a stand against domestic violence.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects millions of Americans
2 each year without regard to ethnicity, age, race, sexual orientation
3 or socioeconomic status; and

4 WHEREAS, The crime of domestic violence violates an
5 individual's rights, privacy, dignity, and security, causing immense
6 physical and emotional pain. This devastating cycle of abuse has
7 a direct impact not only on the victim but is also a public safety
8 issue and affects everyone around the victim. In particular, children
9 who witness violence in the home can suffer from the same social,
10 psychological, and emotional trauma as an abused individual; and

11 WHEREAS, Although domestic abuse is often hidden behind
12 closed doors, it is one of the most prevalent crimes in the United
13 States. One in four women has been abused, many of whom are
14 our loved ones, neighbors, and coworkers; and

15 WHEREAS, Domestic violence comes in many forms, both
16 physical and psychological, but regardless of the type of abuse or
17 the severity, domestic violence is always a choice an abuser makes;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, California is dedicated to providing educational
20 programs that promote awareness and teach youths about healthy
21 relationships; and

22 WHEREAS, Our state is taking steps to hold offenders
23 accountable and offer more support for victims, and the Legislature
24 has enacted numerous laws that increase batterer accountability
25 and increase victim safety; and

26 WHEREAS, Throughout our state, there are many organizations
27 that give safe shelter to victims and their children in a time of need,
28 demonstrating their commitment to helping victims of domestic
29 violence by providing counseling services, crisis hotlines, and
30 legal advocacy; and

31 WHEREAS, In 2010, 84 percent of these organizations reported
32 an increase in the demand for services, while in that same period,
33 88 percent of these organizations reported a decrease in funding,
34 and as a result, fewer victims can be served. For example, in a
35 survey conducted in a 24-hour period in California, domestic
36 violence agencies were able to serve 5,261 victims, however, 614
37 victims had to be turned away, due to a lack of resources; and

38 WHEREAS, The State of California is committed to ending
39 intimate partner violence; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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