

Introduced by Senator Liu
(Coauthors: Senators Kehoe and Leno)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Campos, and Lara)

June 26, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 100—Relative to California Bullying Prevention Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 100, as introduced, Liu. California Bullying Prevention Day.

This measure would declare December 12, 2012, as California Bullying Prevention Day, and would recognize the need for individuals, schools, communities, businesses, local governments, and the state to take action on behalf of bullying prevention in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Bullying, a form of violence among children and
- 2 youth, is common on school playgrounds, in neighborhoods, and
- 3 in homes throughout California; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Bullying behaviors are recognized as dangerous
- 5 and harmful acts that victimize the targeted child and bystanders.
- 6 Bullying is a pattern of deliberate, negative, hurtful, aggressive
- 7 acts that works to shift the balance of physical, emotional, or social
- 8 power; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Bullying may take many forms, such as physical,
- 10 verbal, and relational or social. Physical bullying and verbal
- 11 bullying are usually considered to be a direct form, while relational
- 12 bullying refers to an indirect form of bullying, such as social
- 13 exclusion and spreading rumors; and

1 WHEREAS, As computers and cell phones are rapidly becoming
2 popular for adolescents, cyberbullying, or electronic bullying, is
3 emerging as a new form of bullying. Cyberbullying can be defined
4 as a form of aggression that occurs through personal computers
5 or cell phones; and

6 WHEREAS, The prevalence of bullying among children and
7 youth is staggering, with studies nationally suggesting that 28
8 percent of students were bullied at school and 6 percent were
9 cyberbullied; and

10 WHEREAS, School bullying has been identified as a
11 problematic behavior among adolescents, affecting school
12 achievement, prosocial skills, and psychological well-being for
13 both victims and perpetrators; and

14 WHEREAS, Children and youth who are bullied are more likely
15 than other children to be depressed, lonely, anxious, have low
16 self-esteem, experience headaches, stomachaches, tiredness, and
17 poor eating, be absent from school, dislike school, and have poorer
18 school performance, and think about suicide or try to commit
19 suicide; and

20 WHEREAS, Bullying can affect the social environment of a
21 school, creating a climate of fear among students, inhibiting their
22 ability to learn, and leading to other antisocial behavior; and

23 WHEREAS, If students are in fear for their own safety, they
24 are unable to concentrate on learning. An estimated 160,000
25 students stay home from school every day due to bullying, thereby
26 impacting student achievement; and

27 WHEREAS, Bullying has long-term ramifications for public
28 safety. A bully is six times more likely to be incarcerated by the
29 age of 24; and

30 WHEREAS, Bullying is a cyclical problem and will not end
31 without intervention. Two-thirds of students who are targets
32 become bullies themselves; and

33 WHEREAS, Prevention of bullying requires coordination and
34 understanding. Twenty-five percent of students say that teachers
35 intervened in bullying incidents, while 71 percent of teachers say
36 they have intervened; and

37 WHEREAS, When collaboration occurs, the impact is
38 tremendous. In schools where there are bullying prevention
39 programs, bullying is reduced by 50 percent; and

1 WHEREAS, The most effective model is a comprehensive
2 program using a combination of interventions schoolwide, at the
3 classroom level, and at the individual level to create a social
4 environment characterized by positive adult involvement, firm
5 limits for unacceptable behavior, consistent use of sanctions for
6 rule violations, and recognition that adults are the authorities; and

7 WHEREAS, Restorative justice may be the most appropriate
8 way to prevent bullying. The aim of restorative justice is to
9 reintegrate those affected by wrongdoing back into the community
10 as resilient and responsible members. Restorative justice is a form
11 of conflict resolution and seeks to make it clear to the offender
12 that the behavior is not condoned, while at the same time being
13 supportive and respectful of the individual; and

14 WHEREAS, Current trends in prevention use programs that are
15 designed for middle to high school students. However, new
16 research shows that most bullying starts in elementary school,
17 specifically in grades 2 to 5, inclusive, therefore, intervention
18 should start earlier; and

19 WHEREAS, Writer, actor, director, and producer Gerry Orz
20 was nine years of age when he created a film called “Day of
21 Silence.” The film targets elementary and middle school students
22 and truthfully depicts the life of a youth who is emotionally and
23 physically bullied by a peer; and

24 WHEREAS, Gerry’s compelling story mixes fiction and reality
25 to demonstrate how bullying impacts a youth’s schoolwork, family,
26 and well-being. He shares strategies for students, parents, and
27 schools that can protect children from being bullied; and

28 WHEREAS, Gerry decided to produce the video after being
29 bullied at school. He wanted to speak out and encourage others to
30 do the same in order to break the silence; and

31 WHEREAS, Gerry has turned an awful experience into a story
32 that will prevent bullying and be a source of hope for victims. In
33 addition to his film, Gerry has started a campaign to organize a
34 global day of silence on December 12, 2012, in an effort to raise
35 awareness about bullying. Gerry suggested other means of
36 supporting Bullying Prevention Day for those supporters who are
37 unable to stay silent on December 12, 2012; and

38 WHEREAS, Providing a safe school environment for children
39 and youth is a family, community, state, and national priority; and

1 WHEREAS, The future well-being of our state depends on the
2 values we place on our children and youth and in particular on our
3 actions to provide our young people with opportunities to acquire
4 knowledge and develop into healthy and productive adults; now,
5 therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
7 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares December 12,
8 2012, as California Bullying Prevention Day, and recognizes the
9 need for all of us as individuals, schools, communities, businesses,
10 local governments, and the state to take action on behalf of bullying
11 prevention in California; and be it further

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