

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 30, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 100

Introduced by Senator Liu

(Coauthors: Senators Kehoe and Leno)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Campos, ~~and Lara Lara~~, Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Carter, Chesbro, Davis, Dickinson, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Gatto, Gorell, Hagman, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Mitchell, Monning, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

June 26, 2012

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 100, as amended, 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

1 WHEREAS, Bullying behaviors are recognized as dangerous
2 and harmful acts that victimize the targeted child and bystanders.
3 Bullying is a pattern of deliberate, negative, hurtful, aggressive
4 acts that works to shift the balance of physical, emotional, or social
5 power; and

6 WHEREAS, Bullying may take many forms, such as physical,
7 verbal, and relational or social. Physical bullying and verbal
8 bullying are usually considered to be a direct form, while relational
9 bullying refers to an indirect form of bullying, such as social
10 exclusion and spreading rumors; and

11 WHEREAS, As computers and cell phones are rapidly becoming
12 popular for adolescents, cyberbullying, or electronic bullying, is
13 emerging as a new form of bullying. Cyberbullying can be defined
14 as a form of aggression that occurs through personal computers
15 or cell phones; and

16 WHEREAS, The prevalence of bullying among children and
17 youth is staggering, with studies nationally suggesting that 28
18 percent of students were bullied at school and 6 percent were
19 cyberbullied; and

20 WHEREAS, School bullying has been identified as a
21 problematic behavior among adolescents, affecting school
22 achievement, prosocial skills, and psychological well-being for
23 both victims and perpetrators; and

24 WHEREAS, Children and youth who are bullied are more likely
25 than other children to be depressed, lonely, anxious, have low
26 self-esteem, experience headaches, stomachaches, tiredness, and
27 poor eating, be absent from school, dislike school, and have poorer
28 school performance, and think about suicide or try to commit
29 suicide; and

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

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

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

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

4 WHEREAS, Prevention of bullying requires coordination and
5 understanding. Twenty-five percent of students say that teachers
6 intervened in bullying incidents, while 71 percent of teachers say
7 they have intervened; and

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

11 WHEREAS, The most effective model is a comprehensive
12 program using a combination of interventions schoolwide, at the
13 classroom level, and at the individual level to create a social
14 environment characterized by positive adult involvement, firm
15 limits for unacceptable behavior, consistent use of sanctions for
16 rule violations, and recognition that adults are the authorities; and

17 WHEREAS, Restorative justice may be the most appropriate
18 way to prevent bullying. The aim of restorative justice is to
19 reintegrate those affected by wrongdoing back into the community
20 as resilient and responsible members. Restorative justice is a form
21 of conflict resolution and seeks to make it clear to the offender
22 that the behavior is not condoned, while at the same time being
23 supportive and respectful of the individual; and

24 WHEREAS, Current trends in prevention use programs that are
25 designed for middle to high school students. However, new
26 research shows that most bullying starts in elementary school,
27 specifically in grades 2 to 5, inclusive, therefore, intervention
28 should start earlier; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
16 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares December 12,
17 2012, as California Bullying Prevention Day, and recognizes the
18 need for all of us as individuals, schools, communities, businesses,
19 local governments, and the state to take action on behalf of bullying
20 prevention in California; and be it further

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