

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 25, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 87

Introduced by Senator Anderson

April 26, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 87—Relative to people of faith.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 87, as amended, Anderson. People of faith.

This measure would resolve that the Legislature affirms, among other things, that tolerance by the government toward people of faith is constitutionally guaranteed and necessary to allow an unimpeded flow of good that positively impacts and transforms lives.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The First Amendment to the United States
2 Constitution provides, “Congress shall make no law respecting an
3 establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;
4 or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of
5 the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government
6 for a redress of grievances”; and

7 WHEREAS, Alexis de Tocqueville observed that Americans
8 “combine the notions of religion and liberty so intimately in their
9 minds, that it is impossible to make them conceive of one without
10 the other”; and

11 WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson wrote to the Rev. Samuel Miller
12 on January 23, 1808, “Everyone must act according to the dictates
13 of his own reason, and mine tells me that civil powers alone have
14 been given to the President of the United States, and no authority
15 to direct the religious exercises of his constituents”; and

1 WHEREAS, Franklin Roosevelt stated, “Where freedom of
2 religion has been attacked, the attack has come from sources
3 opposed to democracy. Where democracy has been overthrown,
4 the spirit of free worship has disappeared. And where religion and
5 democracy have vanished, good faith and reason in international
6 affairs have given way to strident ambition and brute force”; and

7 WHEREAS, Religious sponsored schools educate more than
8 5,488,000 students enrolled in preschool and kindergarten and
9 grades 1 to 12, inclusive, which is 10 percent of all United States’
10 students, in 33,366 schools, which is 25 percent of all schools in
11 the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Two thousand two hundred eighty orphanages and
13 5,297 children’s homes are provided and maintained by the
14 Catholic Church alone; and

15 WHEREAS, Over 2,500 children from 19 countries found new
16 homes with adoptive families through All God’s Children
17 International; and

18 WHEREAS, Holt International is an adoption agency that strives
19 to give children the love they need and deserve regardless of race
20 and nationality. It is the largest adoption agency in the United
21 States that in its 55 years of existence has brought together 40,000
22 children with adoptive families in the United States. In 2010, Holt
23 International placed 749 children in American homes, and served
24 36,972 children throughout the world, though with expenses of
25 only \$23,940,959; and

26 WHEREAS, Close to one million students and some 65,000
27 professors serve in the 230 religiously affiliated universities and
28 colleges in the United States; and

29 WHEREAS, Over 110 United States colleges and universities
30 were founded by Catholic sisters. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who was
31 a widow, mother, founder of Sisters of Charity, and the first
32 American-born saint, established the nation’s first free Catholic
33 school; and

34 WHEREAS, In 5,774 elementary schools and 1,206 secondary
35 schools, and 1,822 schools with a waiting list for admission,
36 Catholic school student enrollment for the current academic year
37 is 2,065,872 with 1,467,694 enrollments in elementary and middle
38 school, and 598,178 enrollments in secondary school. Minority
39 student Catholic school enrollment is at 30.2 percent of the total
40 enrollment, which is 624,878 students, and non-Catholic enrollment

1 is 14.9 percent of the total enrollment, which is 307,458 students;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Religious institutions, with an operating budget
4 close to \$100 billion, run parishes, primary and secondary schools,
5 nursing homes, retreat centers, hospitals, and other charitable
6 establishments, and employ more than one million workers; and

7 WHEREAS, The Catholic Church demonstrates its commitment
8 to educate children, particularly within the inner cities and urban
9 areas, where today 43 percent of the schools are located despite
10 population losses and great financial difficulties in maintaining
11 them; and

12 WHEREAS, German immigrants, who formed the Lutheran
13 Church Missouri Synod in the mid-1800s, came to the United
14 States to find a place where they were free to exercise their
15 religious beliefs and to live out their faith with vigor and
16 confessional purity. A unique community of believers, they grew
17 and quickly built schools, churches, hospitals, and orphanages
18 across the nation. Over the past century and a half, the Lutheran
19 Church has grown into a national church body with over 2.3 million
20 members in more than 6,200 congregations across the United
21 States, providing more than 1,000 grade schools and high schools,
22 1,300 early childhood centers, 10 colleges and universities, and
23 two seminaries. Its congregations operate the largest Protestant
24 parochial school system in America; and

25 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod sustains
26 relationships and active mission work in 89 countries around the
27 world. In the last five years, the Lutheran Church has awarded
28 more than \$35 million through more than 900 domestic and
29 international grants for emergency response and disaster relief,
30 including putting up the first million dollars and continuing to
31 provide finance for the Nehemiah Project in New York. The
32 Nehemiah Project has continued over the years to provide home
33 ownership for thousands of families, many of them headed by
34 single women, and maintained an agency in New Orleans, Camp
35 Restore, which rebuilt over 4,000 homes after Katrina, through
36 the blood, sweat, and tears of volunteers. The church's Lutheran
37 Malaria Initiative has touched the lives of 1.6 million people in
38 East Africa, especially those affected by disease, women and
39 children. The church has also cared for the unmet health needs of
40 thousands of people in dozens of the world's least developed

1 countries, donating more than \$1 million in needed medicines in
2 their mercy work overseas in the last few years alone, responding
3 to virtually every recent major natural disaster, both domestically
4 and abroad, using volunteer medical teams that were literally
5 covered in the blood of disaster victims in Haiti and the tsunami
6 that decimated Indonesia and India. The Lutheran Church also
7 provides funding and leads programs for domestic community
8 development, urban housing, and health and nutrition; and

9 WHEREAS, Religion in the United States is defined by a great
10 adherence level and vibrant diversity in religious beliefs and
11 practices. According to recent surveys, 83 percent of Americans
12 identify with a religious denomination, 40 percent state that they
13 regularly attend services, and 58 percent say that they pray weekly;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The National Council of Churches lists 68,503,456
16 members in the United States today; and

17 WHEREAS, Unlike most developed nations, a majority of
18 Americans claim that religion plays a very important role in their
19 lives; and

20 WHEREAS, Many faiths have flourished in the United States,
21 which makes the United States one of the most religiously diverse
22 countries in the world. These faiths span the country's ~~multicultural~~
23 *multicultural* immigrant heritage and those founded within the
24 country; and

25 WHEREAS, Heroism was humbly displayed by Catholic nuns
26 during the Civil War, when over 600 sisters from 21 different
27 communities nursed both Union and Confederate soldiers, all the
28 way through the San Francisco Earthquake, the Civil Rights
29 Movement, and Hurricane Katrina; and

30 WHEREAS, No matter the struggle and controversy at the time,
31 Catholic sisters have opened orphanages, schools, hospitals,
32 colleges, universities, and provided other social services for
33 millions of Americans; and

34 WHEREAS, Sister Ignatia Gavin, CSA, who successfully
35 advocated that alcoholism be treated as a medical condition,
36 provided vital support for Alcoholics Anonymous during its
37 establishment; and

38 WHEREAS, Catholic nuns have contributed to science, such
39 as pioneering research in infrared spectrography by Sister Miriam
40 Stimson, which supported the discovery of DNA; and

1 WHEREAS, Since 1980, while working for social justice and
2 human rights, nine American sisters have been murdered overseas;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, In 2003, there were more than 15.4 million
5 emergency room visits and more than 86 million outpatient visits
6 to Catholic hospitals, especially impacting people living in areas
7 where the only health facility is a Catholic one and low-income
8 people who routinely rely on emergency rooms at charitable
9 hospitals for primary health care; and

10 WHEREAS, Care provided by Catholic hospitals includes 629
11 hospitals, 12 percent of the total hospitals in the United States,
12 with 120,311 beds, 5,512,632 admissions, 28,298,787 inpatient
13 days, 100,032,817 outpatient days, \$98.6 billion in expenses,
14 640,894 in full-time equivalent staff, 2,486,769 Medicare
15 discharges, and 976,802 Medicaid discharges, treating about one
16 in six Americans in a Catholic health care facility each year; and

17 WHEREAS, Medical Assistance Programs, an
18 interdenominational Christian organization, supports work at more
19 than 650 clinics and hospitals. It helps people of all faiths in 118
20 countries and uses 99.1 percent of its funds on program expenses;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Lutheran Services in America, an alliance of
23 Lutheran Church bodies and their over 300 social ministry
24 organizations, join hands to love and serve our neighbors and create
25 opportunities for people throughout the United States and the
26 Caribbean. These organizations work on health care, aging,
27 disability, community development, housing, and related issues,
28 and have aggregated annual incomes over \$16.6 billion, touching
29 the lives of one in 50 Americans each year; and

30 WHEREAS, \$100.63 billion, 35 percent of total contributions
31 in 2010, went to faith-based charities, including churches. Religious
32 groups received over one-third of all contributions in the United
33 States, and faith-based donations increased 0.8 percent from the
34 previous year; and

35 WHEREAS, Catholic Charities USA's members bring hope and
36 support for approximately 10 million people a year regardless of
37 religious, social, or economic background. They provide a myriad
38 of essential services in their communities, ranging from health
39 care and job training to food and housing; and

1 WHEREAS, In the United States, Catholic Charities USA
2 provides one of the largest voluntary social service networks; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2010, 3,301 local Catholic Charities offices, as
4 reported by 171 Catholic Charities USA member agencies and
5 affiliates, provided services to 10,270,292 unduplicated clients,
6 offering client services 15,448,529 times. They provide food,
7 building strong communities, strengthening families, respond to
8 disasters, and meet basic human needs; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2010, according to a survey conducted by the
10 Chronicle of Philanthropy, Catholic Charities USA was one of
11 only four charities among the top 400 charitable organizations to
12 experience an increase in donations in 2009; and

13 WHEREAS, Christian Blind Mission International granted
14 \$112,982,826 in aid last year, whose teams of volunteers included
15 medical professionals to treat the blind and perform thousands of
16 operations to restore those who live with disabilities around the
17 world; and

18 WHEREAS, Matthew 25 Ministries (M25M) is an international
19 humanitarian relief organization helping the poorest of the poor
20 locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally regardless of
21 race, creed, or political persuasion by providing basic necessities,
22 skill development, and disaster relief across the United States and
23 worldwide. Since its founding in 1990, M25M has sent 71,717,889
24 pounds of aid across the United States and into more than 35
25 countries worldwide; and

26 WHEREAS, World Vision is a Christian humanitarian
27 organization dedicated to working with children, families, and
28 their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by
29 tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision provides
30 emergency assistance to children and families affected by natural
31 disasters and civil conflict, and works with communities to develop
32 long-term solutions to alleviate poverty and advocate for justice
33 on behalf of the poor. In the 2010 fiscal year, World Vision was
34 able to give \$549.5 million towards approximately 80 disaster
35 response efforts, with nearly 80 percent of their funding coming
36 from private sources; and

37 WHEREAS, The mission of the Church World Service is to
38 erase hunger and poverty while promoting peace and justice
39 throughout the world by introducing sustainable local development
40 initiatives to the individuals they seek to help, including disaster

1 relief, and refugee assistance all around the world which is
2 delivered from 36 refugee resettlement offices in affiliates in 21
3 states. Since 1946, the Church World Service has found new homes
4 for more than 450,000 refugees in the United States, and from July
5 2010 to June 2011 has spent \$82,029,444 toward their mission
6 with 46.7 percent of their entire expenses going toward refugee
7 resettlement and assistance as well as 19.4 percent toward disaster
8 relief and recovery, with 3.7 percent of their \$82,029,444 in
9 expenses going to administrative services; and

10 WHEREAS, While the Salvation Army was first founded in
11 1867 in London under the name “The Christian mission,” it soon
12 grew to an international organization providing several services
13 to the community, and through just the 2011 Red Kettle Campaign
14 alone, the Salvation Army was able to raise a record \$147.6 million
15 that it uses in its various ministries, including a prisoner
16 rehabilitation program that allows for prisoners to be released into
17 the custody of the Salvation Army to receive assistance in
18 job-training, employment opportunities all while cooperating with
19 parole rules, and extending services for the prisoner’s family; and

20 WHEREAS, The Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA)
21 was first founded by George Williams as a place where young men
22 could study the Bible and be protected from life on the streets.
23 Today the YMCA is in more than 10,000 neighborhoods all across
24 the United States and is made up of about 20,000 full-time staff
25 and 500,000 volunteers dedicated to working with 9 million youth
26 and 12 million adults across the country for, in 2010, only
27 \$90,261,269; and

28 WHEREAS, The YMCA offers afterschool programs for
29 kindergarten through middle school aged children, which offers
30 them activities to explore their interests and talents while providing
31 a safe and healthy place to learn foundational skills, develop
32 healthy, trusting relationships, and build self-reliance by learning
33 the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. The
34 Achievers Program helps teens of color raise their academic
35 standards, develop a positive sense of self, build character, explore
36 diverse college and career options, and learn from role models
37 who inspire them to greater heights; and

38 WHEREAS, For over 100 years the American Jewish
39 Community (AJC) continues its efforts to promote pluralistic and
40 democratic societies where all minorities are protected. AJC is an

1 international think tank and advocacy organization that attempts
2 to identify trends and problems early, and take action. Its key areas
3 of focus are combating anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry,
4 promoting pluralism and shared democratic values, supporting
5 Israel's quest for peace and security, advocating for energy
6 independence, and strengthening Jewish life. It spends \$40,715,000
7 in expenses, 10 percent to administration, 14 percent to marketing,
8 and 76 percent to program services; and

9 WHEREAS, The Jewish Federations of North America represent
10 157 Jewish Federations and over 300 network communities, which
11 raise and distribute more than \$3 billion annually for social welfare,
12 social services, and educational needs; and

13 WHEREAS, The Lutheran World Relief donates 90 cents of
14 every dollar on 100 local partners and their program services. They
15 collaborate to improve health and education in 35 countries each
16 year by training local women and men to produce local foods, dig
17 low-cost wells, and protect and restore their local environments;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The Christian Foundation for Children and Aging
20 (CFCA) has brought hope to families living in poverty in 22
21 countries for almost 30 years. CFCA is backed by 250,000 sponsors
22 who are supporting more than 300,000 children, youth, and elderly
23 worldwide. Despite a difficult economic climate, total contributions
24 and revenues exceeded \$109.3 million in 2010, increasing from
25 the ~~previous~~ *previous* year; and

26 WHEREAS, In 2010, Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA) provided
27 \$167,924,852 in aid to many communities without regard to race,
28 religion, social, or economic status. Islamic Relief USA provides
29 emergency disaster relief, and developed projects to support
30 education, income generation, orphans, health and nutrition, and
31 water and sanitation. In addition to its international work, IRUSA
32 also supports domestic projects to help disadvantaged communities
33 in the United States through community grants, toy fairs for
34 children, financial assistance, and healthcare; and

35 WHEREAS, Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit,
36 ecumenical Christian organization, that served a record 81,399
37 families worldwide in fiscal year 2011 through construction,
38 rehabilitation, and repairs. Believing that every man, woman and
39 child should have a simple, decent place to live, they continue to

work to eliminate substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and provide adequate, affordable shelter; and

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Committee on Relief, a nonprofit global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church, works in more than 80 countries worldwide to alleviate suffering caused by war, conflict, or natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, Child Fund International spent \$187.2 million dollars on services for impoverished children. Its programs help these children to become strong and positive young adults, parents, and leaders in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Since 1985 Christian Action has built 462 winter homes for Tibetan families and 10 schools and two clinics. In total, there are over 20,000 people directly helped by Christian Action each year. Starting in 2008, Christian Action offered over 200 scholarships that pay for school fees, boarding fees, and teaching materials to help students with financial difficulties to complete their studies; and

WHEREAS, Since 1883 St. Vincent de Paul, one of the oldest and most successful charitable organizations in the world, made up of nearly 700,000 volunteers and programs in 142 countries, which together provides more than \$595 million in services, has helped over 14 million people. In 2010, St. Vincent de Paul provided \$593,932,658 in services through their food pantries, thrift stores, dining halls, housing assistance, and disaster relief programs; and

WHEREAS, The Knights of Columbus awarded \$1.5 million scholarships to 642 students in the 2010–11 academic year to students studying at various Catholic colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines through several scholarship programs. Since its establishment the Knights of Columbus has donated \$1.406 billion to charity work, and provided more than 653 million hours of volunteer service in support of charitable initiatives through partnerships with the Special Olympics, the Global Wheelchair Mission, and Habitat for Humanity; and

WHEREAS, The Church of ~~Latter Day~~ *Jesus Christ of Latter-Day* Saints established the Perpetual Education Fund in 2001 to aid those in developing regions make a better life for themselves through higher education. To date, 50,000 participants in over 50 countries have benefited from the program with most

1 participants completing their education in 2.4 years and gaining
2 employment; and

3 WHEREAS, Since 1998 hundreds of thousands of Mormon
4 Helping Hands volunteers *for the Church of Jesus Christ of*
5 *Latter-Day Saints* have donated millions of hours of service to
6 their communities. These volunteers in their trademark yellow
7 shirts help people whose lives have been affected by natural
8 disasters and other emergencies. Mormon Helping Hands
9 volunteers also partner with government and nonprofit
10 organizations to support and improve the communities where they
11 live; and

12 WHEREAS, Christians, such as Lyman Beecher, Harriet
13 Beecher Stowe, and William Lloyd Garrison, have dedicated their
14 lives to bringing social justice to America and worked tirelessly
15 to expand and strengthen the abolitionist movement; and

16 WHEREAS, The Southern Christian Leadership Conference,
17 whose support came primarily from the church, worked to advance
18 the cause of civil rights in America but in a nonviolent manner.
19 The church was a vital part of the lives of African Americans in
20 the South, and church leaders played a noteworthy role in Southern
21 black communities; and

22 WHEREAS, According to Dr. Bernard LaFayette, the Civil
23 Rights movement and the broader freedom struggle became the
24 cornerstone of social change in modern America because of the
25 guiding force of religion and principles rooted in faith and
26 Judeo-Christian ethics. For the better part of a century, the
27 faith-based struggle to eradicate racial discrimination and injustice
28 in the United States has been a major source of spiritual and more
29 regeneration, of hope and renewal, for oppressed people across
30 the globe; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
32 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature affirms all of the
33 following:

34 (a) Faith-based organizations of all creeds and denominations
35 serve their neighbors in need, and have a vested interest in our
36 society with much to contribute to our future; and

37 (b) Throughout our nation's history, the work carried out, very
38 often at personal cost, by people of faith continues to benefit and
39 serve our neighbors in need throughout our communities; and

1 (c) The unique spirit of service and sacrifice lived out by the
2 faithful are the fruit of values and vision set into action, benefitting
3 and serving the lives of many in this country and this world; and

4 (d) The charity, kindness, and goodwill given to so many people
5 is directly shaped and developed by religion, and they thrive as a
6 result of the giving spirit nourished by religion's free practice and
7 teaching; and

8 (e) Religious organizations and the faith they inspire have
9 cultivated countless good deeds of mercy and love, which are a
10 valuable asset that helps to address the many needs in our society;
11 and

12 (f) The freedom to allow all faiths to flourish and the protected
13 liberty of religious conscience profoundly shape America's history
14 and destiny as religious people fulfill their mission, calling, and
15 commitment to serve; and

16 (g) Religious freedom affirms and sustains much strength and
17 health in the day-to-day lives of millions, while governmental
18 intrusion upon it stifles the good being done and plugs the
19 wellspring of life lived for the benefit for others; and

20 (h) Tolerance by the government toward people of faith is
21 constitutionally guaranteed and necessary to allow an unimpeded
22 flow of good that positively impacts and transforms lives; and

23 (i) An inestimable value and contribution to our American
24 standard of living comes from the free hearts of those whose faith
25 and conscience who, motivated by the love of God, impel them to
26 carry out care for their neighbor; and

27 (j) Constitutional protection from governmental discrimination
28 or dictates against conscience ensures a strong and vibrant
29 democracy; and

30 (k) The government may not prescribe morals, teachings,
31 practice, or beliefs for churches or any other religious body, for it
32 has no right to do so, but is instead to allow for the free exercise
33 of our First Amendment religious rights; and

34 (l) Acts of mercy come from conscience, and many consciences
35 are patterned by their faith, moving with the confidence and
36 courage that comes from conviction; and

37 (m) Firmly upholding the right of conscience and cherishing
38 the exercise of religious independence and expression of religious
39 belief as American foundations animate the freedom that belongs
40 to all, that we may live in liberty and happiness; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.