

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 14, 2012

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

1 been given to the President of the United States, and no authority
2 to direct the religious exercises of his constituents”; and

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

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

14 WHEREAS, Two thousand two hundred eighty orphanages and
15 5,297 children’s homes are provided and maintained by the
16 Catholic Church alone; and

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

20 WHEREAS, Holt International is an adoption agency that strives
21 to give children the love they need and deserve regardless of race
22 and nationality. It is the largest adoption agency in the United
23 States that in its 55 years of existence has brought together 40,000
24 children with adoptive families in the United States. In 2010, Holt
25 International placed 749 children in American homes, and served
26 36,972 children throughout the world, though with expenses of
27 only \$23,940,959; and

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

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

36 WHEREAS, In 5,774 elementary schools and 1,206 secondary
37 schools, and 1,822 schools with a waiting list for admission,
38 Catholic school student enrollment for the current academic year
39 is 2,065,872 with 1,467,694 enrollments in elementary and middle
40 school, and 598,178 enrollments in secondary school. Minority

1 student Catholic school enrollment is at 30.2 percent of the total
2 enrollment, which is 624,878 ~~students~~ *pupils*, and non-Catholic
3 enrollment is 14.9 percent of the total enrollment, which is 307,458
4 ~~students~~ *pupils*; and

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

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

14 WHEREAS, German immigrants, who formed the Lutheran
15 Church Missouri Synod in the mid-1800s, came to the United
16 States to find a place where they were free to exercise their
17 religious beliefs and to live out their faith with vigor and
18 confessional purity. A unique community of believers, they grew
19 and quickly built schools, churches, hospitals, and orphanages
20 across the nation. Over the past century and a half, the Lutheran
21 Church has grown into a national church body with over 2.3 million
22 members in more than 6,200 congregations across the United
23 States, providing more than 1,000 grade schools and high schools,
24 1,300 early childhood centers, 10 colleges and universities, and
25 ~~two~~ 2 seminaries. Its congregations operate the largest Protestant
26 parochial school system in America; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, Catholic nuns have contributed to science, such
2 as pioneering research in infrared spectrography by Sister Miriam
3 Stimson, O.P., which supported the discovery of DNA; and

4 WHEREAS, Since 1980, while working for social justice and
5 human rights, nine American sisters have been murdered overseas;
6 and

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

13 WHEREAS, Care provided by Catholic hospitals includes 629
14 hospitals, 12 percent of the total hospitals in the United States,
15 with 120,311 beds, 5,512,632 admissions, 28,298,787 inpatient
16 days, 100,032,817 outpatient days, \$98.6 billion in expenses,
17 640,894 in full-time equivalent staff, 2,486,769 Medicare
18 discharges, and 976,802 Medicaid discharges, treating about one
19 in six Americans in a Catholic health care facility each year; and

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

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

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

38 WHEREAS, Catholic Charities USA's members bring hope and
39 support for approximately 10 million people a year regardless of
40 religious, social, or economic background. They provide a myriad

1 of essential services in their communities, ranging from health
2 care and job training to food and housing; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 WHEREAS, The mission of the Church World Service is to
40 erase hunger and poverty while promoting peace and justice

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

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

23 WHEREAS, The Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA)
24 was first founded by George Williams as a place where young men
25 could study the Bible and be protected from life on the streets.
26 Today the YMCA is in more than 10,000 neighborhoods all across
27 the United States and is made up of about 20,000 full-time staff
28 and 500,000 volunteers dedicated to working with 9 million youth
29 and 12 million adults across the country for, in 2010, ~~only~~
30 \$90,261,269; and

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

1 WHEREAS, For over 100 years the American Jewish
2 Community (AJC) continues its efforts to promote pluralistic and
3 democratic societies where all minorities are protected. AJC is an
4 international think tank and advocacy organization that attempts
5 to identify trends and problems early, and take action. Its key areas
6 of focus are combating anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry,
7 promoting pluralism and shared democratic values, supporting
8 Israel's quest for peace and security, advocating for energy
9 independence, and strengthening Jewish life. It spends \$40,715,000
10 in expenses, 10 percent to administration, 14 percent to marketing,
11 and 76 percent to program services; and

12 WHEREAS, The Jewish Federations of North America represent
13 157 Jewish Federations and over 300 network communities, which
14 raise and distribute more than \$3 billion annually for social welfare,
15 social services, and educational needs; and

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

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

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

38 WHEREAS, Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit,
39 ecumenical Christian organization, that served a record 81,399
40 families worldwide in fiscal year 2011 through construction,

1 rehabilitation, and repairs. Believing that every man, woman, and
2 child should have a simple, decent place to live, they continue to
3 work to eliminate substandard housing and homelessness
4 worldwide and provide adequate, affordable shelter; and

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

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

13 WHEREAS, Since 1985 Christian Action has built 462 winter
14 homes for Tibetan families and 10 schools and ~~two~~ 2 clinics. In
15 total, there are over 20,000 people directly helped by Christian
16 Action each year. Starting in 2008, Christian Action offered over
17 200 scholarships that pay for school fees, boarding fees, and
18 teaching materials to help students with financial difficulties to
19 complete their studies; and

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

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

38 WHEREAS, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
39 established the Perpetual Education Fund in 2001 to aid those in
40 developing regions make a better life for themselves through higher

1 education. To date, 50,000 participants in over 50 countries have
2 benefited from the program with most participants completing
3 their education in 2.4 years and gaining employment; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 (b) Throughout our nation's history, the work carried out, very
39 often at personal cost, by people of faith continues to benefit and
40 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 *benefiting* and serving the lives of many in this country and this
4 world; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 (m) Firmly upholding the right of conscience and cherishing
39 the exercise of religious independence and expression of religious

- 1 belief as American foundations animate the freedom that belongs
- 2 to all, that we may live in liberty and happiness; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 4 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.