

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 34**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Cooley**

March 18, 2013

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 34—Relative to Child Abuse Prevention Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 34, as introduced, Cooley. Child Abuse Prevention Month.

This measure would acknowledge the month of April 2013 as Child Abuse Prevention Month, and encourage the people of the State of California to work together to support youth-serving child abuse prevention activities in their communities and schools.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect continue to pose serious  
2 threats to our nation's children; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2010, according to the University of California  
4 at Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research, approximately  
5 89,000 children in California were found to be victims of abuse  
6 or neglect; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2010, according to the United States Department  
8 of Health and Human Services, 120 children in California died as  
9 a result of child abuse and neglect; and

10 WHEREAS, Children who have been abused or neglected have  
11 a higher risk of developing various health problems as adults,  
12 including alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders,  
13 obesity, suicide, and certain chronic diseases; and

1 WHEREAS, California’s children deserve to grow up in a safe  
2 and nurturing environment free from fear, abuse, and neglect; and

3 WHEREAS, Prevention of child abuse and neglect depends on  
4 the involvement of people throughout the community; and

5 WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect have long-term economic  
6 and societal costs; and

7 WHEREAS, Providing community-based prevention services  
8 to families whose children may be at risk of child abuse or neglect  
9 is less costly than addressing the emotional and physical damage  
10 that can result from child abuse and neglect; and

11 WHEREAS, Providing community-based prevention services  
12 to those families can help avoid the costs of protective services,  
13 law enforcement, the judicial system, foster care, and the treatment  
14 of adults recovering from abuse as children; and

15 WHEREAS, Victims of child abuse, whether the abuse is  
16 physical, sexual, or emotional, or any combination of these, should  
17 have access to a safe place to live, appropriate medical care, and  
18 counseling or mental health services; and

19 WHEREAS, In recent years, Prevent Child Abuse America, the  
20 Child Abuse Prevention Center, and other groups have organized  
21 Blue Ribbon Campaigns in order to increase public awareness of  
22 child abuse and to promote ways to prevent child abuse; and

23 WHEREAS, Each year, the President of the United States issues  
24 a proclamation announcing April as National Child Abuse  
25 Prevention Month; and

26 WHEREAS, Blue ribbons are displayed to increase the  
27 awareness of child abuse and to focus on the positive message of  
28 preventing child abuse and neglect by supporting families and  
29 strengthening communities during Child Abuse Prevention Month;  
30 now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
32 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature does hereby acknowledge  
33 the month of April 2013 as Child Abuse Prevention Month and  
34 encourages the people of the State of California to work together  
35 to support youth-serving child abuse prevention activities in their  
36 communities and schools during that month and throughout the  
37 year; and be it further

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

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