

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 16**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Bonilla**

April 1, 2013

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16—Relative to Preschool for All in California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 16, as introduced, Bonilla. State preschool programs: early learning.

This measure would urge the Congress of the United States to enact President Barack Obama's budget proposal to increase funding for preschool and early learning. This measure would also urge the Superintendent of Public Instruction to prepare a plan for making California competitive for future increases in federal funding to preschool and early learning programs.

Fiscal committee: no.

1     WHEREAS, To be competitive in the 21st century global  
2 economy, California must have a dynamic and educated workforce;  
3 and  
4     WHEREAS, To strengthen and grow the middle class, California  
5 must broaden investments proven to prepare students for college  
6 and careers, and proven to create economic opportunity; and  
7     WHEREAS, Research by a Nobel Laureate economist shows  
8 that every dollar invested in high-quality early education can save  
9 more than \$7 later on, by boosting grade level proficiency and  
10 graduation rates, increasing earned income and job stability,  
11 reducing teen pregnancy, and reducing violent crime; and

1 WHEREAS, Study after study, over 100 in the United States  
2 alone, shows that preschool significantly benefits children’s school  
3 success; and

4 WHEREAS, Research has shown that the early years in a child’s  
5 life, when the human brain is forming, represent a critically  
6 important window of opportunity to develop a child’s full potential  
7 and shape key academic, social, and cognitive skills that determine  
8 a child’s success in school and in life; and

9 WHEREAS, During the preschool years, children not only  
10 develop core academic knowledge in preliteracy and early math,  
11 but they develop critically important learning skills, such as paying  
12 attention, managing emotions, and completing tasks; and

13 WHEREAS, Research has shown that California’s academic  
14 achievement gap exists before children start school; and

15 WHEREAS, Research shows that students who start out behind  
16 too often also stay behind, and those who are not reading  
17 proficiently in third grade are four times more likely to not graduate  
18 from high school; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2012, 52 percent of California third graders  
20 tested below proficient in English-Language Arts and more than  
21 30 percent are not proficient in Mathematics; and

22 WHEREAS, Since 2008, over 110,000 children have lost access  
23 to preschool and child care programs due to \$1 billion in state  
24 budget cuts; and

25 WHEREAS, Over 220,000 low-income three-and four-year-old  
26 children who are eligible for the California State Preschool  
27 Program or the federal Head Start program do not receive services;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama in his 2013 State of the  
30 Union speech called on states to partner with the federal  
31 government to make sure every child, regardless of their parents  
32 ability to pay, has access to high quality preschool; now, therefore,  
33 be it

34 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
35 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully urges the  
36 Congress to enact President Barack Obama’s budget proposal to  
37 increase funding for preschool and early learning; and be it further

38 *Resolved,* That the Legislature respectfully urges the  
39 Superintendent of Public Instruction to prepare a plan for making

1 California competitive for future increases in federal funding to  
2 preschool and early learning programs; and be it further  
3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
4 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
5 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
6 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and  
7 Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
8 States.

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