

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 109

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 24

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 109—Relative to Latino Education and Advocacy Days.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 5, 2014.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 109, Brown. Latino Education and Advocacy Days.

This measure would declare the last week of March every year as a statewide week of advocacy for Latino education.

WHEREAS, The strength of the California education system and its place in a competitive global economy will depend largely on future educational outcomes among Latino students; and

WHEREAS, Latinos emerged as the largest ethnic minority group in the United States in the new millennium; and

WHEREAS, Statistically, since 1998, Latino children have become the largest ethnic minority student demographic in United States public schools and, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, more than 50 percent of all K-12 pupils in California are Latino; and

WHEREAS, Both Latino students and teachers have a high mobility rate, are located in racially segregated communities with high poverty rates, and attend schools with fewer resources, staffing, and programs. However, despite these challenges, Latino students have shown an impressive focus on higher education; and

WHEREAS, Latino students' college enrollment directly after high school has grown from fewer than one-half to more than two-thirds over the last decade; and

WHEREAS, Among California's Latino students, only three in 10 high school graduates complete the A-G curriculum compared to nearly one-half of white high school graduates and 65 percent of Asian Pacific Islander high school graduates; and

WHEREAS, Latino students, who make up 47 percent of the traditional college-going age population of 18 to 24 years, inclusive, are underrepresented in every system of higher education in California, representing only 39 percent of total undergraduate enrollment at the California Community Colleges, 33 percent at the California State University, and 20 percent at the University of California; and

WHEREAS, Latino students also continue to have difficulty performing on standardized testing, accessing elite colleges and universities, and graduating with a postsecondary degree or a graduate degree; and

WHEREAS, According to Current Population Survey data released by the United States Census Bureau in March 2010, out of 100 Latino males and 100 Latina females in elementary school, 61 Latino males and 64 Latina females graduate from high school, 9.2 Latino males and 11 Latina females graduate with a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science degree, 3.0 Latino males and 3.6 Latina females graduate with a professional or graduate degree, and 0.7 Latino males and 0.4 Latina females graduate with a doctorate degree; and

WHEREAS, Many other ethnic minority groups that struggle with educational attainment could benefit from the best practices that have resulted in the improved educational outcomes for Latino students; and

WHEREAS, Latino students represent an opportunity to increase diversity, strengthen the tax, labor, consumption, and investment pool, and increase ties with Mexico and Latin America; and

WHEREAS, On March 27, 2014, California State University, San Bernardino, College of Education will host its 5th Annual Latino Education and Advocacy Days summit; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the last week of March every year is hereby declared as a statewide week of advocacy for Latino education; and be it further

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