

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 27, 2013

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 29**

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**Introduced by Senator Liu**

April 1, 2013

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 29—Relative to California Runaway and Homeless Youth Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 29, as amended, Liu. California Runaway and Homeless Youth Month.

This measure would designate the month of November 2013 as California Runaway and Homeless Youth Month, and would recognize the need for individuals, schools, communities, businesses, local governments, and the state to take action on behalf of runaway and homeless youth in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Runaway and homeless youth are young people  
2 between 12 and 24 years of age who have the least access to  
3 essential opportunities and supports; and  
4 WHEREAS, The prevalence of runaways and homelessness  
5 among youth is staggering, with studies suggesting that nationally  
6 between 1.6 and ~~1.8~~ 2.8 million youth up to 24 years of age  
7 experience homelessness every ~~year~~; *year, of which an*  
8 *overrepresentation are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender*; and  
9 WHEREAS, Based on national surveys and California's youth  
10 population, an estimated 200,000 youth under 18 years of age, and  
11 thousands more who are 18 to 24 years of age, are homeless for  
12 one or more days each year; and

1 WHEREAS, An overwhelming majority of runaway and  
2 homeless youth have been expelled from their homes by their  
3 families; physically, sexually, and emotionally abused at home;  
4 discharged from foster care and other state custodial systems  
5 without adequate transition plans; separated from their parents by  
6 death or divorce; too poor to secure their own basic needs; and  
7 ineligible or unable to access adequate medical or mental health  
8 resources; and

9 ~~WHEREAS, Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT)~~  
10 ~~youth make up a disproportionate share of the homeless youth~~  
11 ~~population, with estimates suggesting that LGBT youth~~  
12 ~~comprise over 40 percent of the homeless youth population~~  
13 ~~despite comprising only 10 percent of the general youth~~  
14 ~~population; and~~

15 WHEREAS, Runaway and homeless youth who live on the  
16 street are victims of physical abuse, sexual exploitation, and crime  
17 in untold numbers; and

18 WHEREAS, These youths are on the street because they feel  
19 there are no other options open to them; and

20 WHEREAS, Youths who “age out” of the foster care system  
21 are at an increased risk of homelessness, and represent an estimated  
22 20 percent of the 20,000 youth who leave foster care and are  
23 currently homeless; and

24 WHEREAS, Providing safe, stable, and permanent housing for  
25 runaway and homeless youth is a family, community, state, and  
26 national priority; and

27 WHEREAS, The future well-being of our state depends on the  
28 value we place on our youth, and, in particular, on our actions to  
29 provide the most vulnerable young people in the state with  
30 opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities they  
31 need to find and maintain stable housing and develop into healthy  
32 and productive adults; and

33 WHEREAS, The number of effective programs providing  
34 services and support to runaway and homeless youth in California  
35 is a fraction of what is needed to fully address the needs of these  
36 young people; and

37 WHEREAS, The California Coalition for Youth has operated  
38 the California Youth Crisis Line (1-800-843-5200), 24 hours a  
39 day, seven days a week, for over 25 years as the state’s only  
40 emergency response system for youth in crisis; and

1 WHEREAS, November is National Runaway and Homeless  
2 Youth Awareness Month; and

3 WHEREAS, The California Coalition for Youth, along with  
4 other community-based organizations, providers, and advocates,  
5 is sponsoring the third annual California Runaway and Homeless  
6 Youth Month to increase awareness and action on behalf of youth  
7 who are at risk or currently living on the street; and

8 WHEREAS, Awareness of the tragedy of youth homelessness  
9 and its causes must be heightened to ensure greater support for  
10 effective programs aimed at preventing homelessness and helping  
11 youth remain off the streets; now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
13 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the need for  
14 individuals, schools, communities, businesses, local governments,  
15 and the state to take action on behalf of runaway and homeless  
16 youth in California; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Legislature hereby designates the month of  
18 November 2013 as California Runaway and Homeless Youth  
19 Month; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
21 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.