
**Introduced by Senator Lieu
(Coauthors: Senators Hueso, Lara, Leno, and Liu)**

June 17, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 51—Relative to California Bullying Prevention Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 51, as introduced, Lieu. California Bullying Prevention Day.

This measure would declare December 12, 2013, as California Bullying Prevention Day, and would recognize the need for individuals, schools, communities, businesses, local governments, and the state to take action on behalf of bullying prevention in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Bullying, a form of violence among children and
2 youth, is common on school playgrounds, in neighborhoods, and
3 in homes throughout California; and

4 WHEREAS, Bullying behaviors are recognized as dangerous
5 and harmful acts that victimize the targeted child and bystanders.
6 Bullying is a pattern of deliberate, negative, hurtful, aggressive
7 acts that works to shift the balance of physical, emotional, or social
8 power; and

9 WHEREAS, Bullying may take many forms, such as physical,
10 verbal, and relational or social. Physical bullying and verbal
11 bullying are usually considered to be a direct form, while relational
12 bullying refers to an indirect form of bullying, such as social
13 exclusion and spreading rumors; and

14 WHEREAS, As computers and cell phones are rapidly becoming
15 popular for adolescents, cyberbullying, or electronic bullying, is

1 emerging as a new form of bullying. Cyberbullying can be defined
2 as a form of aggression that occurs through personal computers
3 or cell phones; and

4 WHEREAS, The prevalence of bullying among children and
5 youth is staggering, with studies nationally suggesting that 28
6 percent of students were bullied at school and 6 percent were
7 cyberbullied; and

8 WHEREAS, School bullying has been identified as a
9 problematic behavior among adolescents, affecting school
10 achievement, prosocial skills, and psychological well-being for
11 both victims and perpetrators; and

12 WHEREAS, Children and youth who are bullied are more likely
13 than other children to be depressed, lonely, or anxious; to have
14 low self-esteem; to experience headaches, stomachaches, tiredness,
15 and poor eating; to be absent from school, dislike school, and have
16 poor school performance; and to think about suicide or try to
17 commit suicide; and

18 WHEREAS, Bullying can affect the social environment of a
19 school, creating a climate of fear among students, inhibiting their
20 ability to learn, and leading to other antisocial behavior; and

21 WHEREAS, If students are in fear for their own safety, they
22 are unable to concentrate on learning. An estimated 160,000
23 students stay home from school every day due to bullying, thereby
24 impacting student achievement; and

25 WHEREAS, Bullying has long-term ramifications for public
26 safety. A bully is six times more likely than a person who is not a
27 bully to be incarcerated by the age of 24; and

28 WHEREAS, Bullying is a cyclical problem and will not end
29 without intervention. Two-thirds of students who are targets
30 become bullies themselves; and

31 WHEREAS, Prevention of bullying requires coordination and
32 understanding. Twenty-five percent of students say that teachers
33 intervened in bullying incidents, while 71 percent of teachers say
34 they have intervened; and

35 WHEREAS, When collaboration occurs, the impact is
36 tremendous. In schools where there are bullying prevention
37 programs, bullying has been reduced by 50 percent; and

38 WHEREAS, The most effective model is a comprehensive
39 program using a combination of interventions schoolwide, at the
40 classroom level, and at the individual level to create a social

1 environment characterized by positive adult involvement, firm
2 limits for unacceptable behavior, consistent use of sanctions for
3 rule violations, and recognition that adults are the authorities; and

4 WHEREAS, Restorative justice may be the most appropriate
5 way to prevent bullying. The aim of restorative justice is to
6 reintegrate those affected by wrongdoing back into the community
7 as resilient and responsible members. Restorative justice is a form
8 of conflict resolution that aims to make it clear to the offender that
9 his or her offending behavior is not condoned, while at the same
10 time being supportive and respectful of the individual; and

11 WHEREAS, Current trends in prevention use programs that are
12 designed for middle to high school students. However, new
13 research shows that most bullying starts in elementary school,
14 specifically in grades 2 to 5, inclusive, and therefore, intervention
15 should start earlier; and

16 WHEREAS, Writer, actor, director, and producer Gerry Orz
17 was nine years of age when he created a film called “Day of
18 Silence.” The film targets elementary and middle school students
19 and truthfully depicts the life of a youth who is emotionally and
20 physically bullied by a peer; and

21 WHEREAS, Gerry’s compelling story mixes fiction and reality
22 to demonstrate how bullying impacts a youth’s schoolwork, family,
23 and well-being. He shares strategies for students, parents, and
24 schools that can protect children from being bullied; and

25 WHEREAS, Gerry decided to produce the video after being
26 bullied at school. He wanted to speak out and encourage others to
27 do the same in order to break the silence; and

28 WHEREAS, Gerry has turned an awful experience into a story
29 that will prevent bullying and be a source of hope for victims. In
30 addition to his film, Gerry has started a campaign to organize a
31 global day of silence on December 12, 2013, in an effort to raise
32 awareness about bullying. Gerry suggested other means of
33 supporting Bullying Prevention Day for those supporters who are
34 unable to stay silent on December 12, 2013; and

35 WHEREAS, Providing a safe school environment for children
36 and youth is a family, community, state, and national priority; and

37 WHEREAS, The future well-being of our state depends on the
38 value we place on our children and youth and, in particular, on our
39 actions to provide our young people with opportunities to acquire

1 knowledge and develop into healthy and productive adults; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares December 12,
5 2013, as California Bullying Prevention Day, and recognizes the
6 need for all of us as individuals, schools, communities, businesses,
7 local governments, and the state to take action on behalf of bullying
8 prevention in California; and be it further

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