

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 68

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 129

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 68—Relative to National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 20, 2013.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 68, Lieu. National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This bill would recognize October of each year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, President Obama declared October 2012 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, President Obama called on all Americans to “promote healthy relationships, speak out when we see injustice in our communities, stand with survivors we know, and change attitudes that perpetuate the cycle of abuse”; and

WHEREAS, Although progress has been made toward breaking the cycle of violence, much work remains to be done; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence programs in California provide essential, lifesaving services for victims and their children fleeing violence; and

WHEREAS, Advocates and organizations work on behalf of victims every day. Domestic violence shelters and services, law enforcement officials, health care providers, and others are all integral parts of the effort to end domestic violence and must be recognized and applauded for their work; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to increase the public awareness and understanding of domestic violence and the needs of victims; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, ethnic, and economic groups in the United States and here in California; and

WHEREAS, All victims deserve access to programs and services to increase their safety; and

WHEREAS, While one in four women and one in seven men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner, women are disproportionately affected by sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking; and

WHEREAS, Women 18 to 24 years of age are significantly more likely to be victims of physical intimate partner violence than women in other age groups; and

WHEREAS, California law enforcement agencies received 158,547 domestic violence-related calls in 2011; and

WHEREAS, There were 147 domestic violence-related homicides in California in 2011, of which 129 fatalities were female and 18 were male; and

WHEREAS, Children exposed to domestic violence can experience long-term consequences, including difficulty at school, substance abuse, and serious adult health problems; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes the vital role that all Californians can play in preventing, and one day ending, domestic violence; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes October 2013, and each following October, as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and be it further

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