

House Resolution

No. 7

Introduced by Assembly Member Lopez
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Calderon, Eggman, Cristina
Garcia, Gomez, Gonzalez, Medina, and Rendon)

February 19, 2015

House Resolution No. 7—Relative to adult education.

1 WHEREAS, The week of March 22, 2015, to March 28, 2015,
2 inclusive, is observed as “Adult Education Week,” recognizing
3 the unique accomplishments of California adult schools; and

4 WHEREAS, The Assembly of the State of California
5 acknowledges that adult schools that are provided by K-12 school
6 districts offer quality programs to meet the ever-changing economic
7 and workforce development and lifelong learning needs of our
8 diverse state; and

9 WHEREAS, The first recorded adult education class in
10 California was held in the basement of St. Mary’s Cathedral in
11 San Francisco in 1856. The class was authorized by the San
12 Francisco Board of Education to teach English to Irish, Italian,
13 and Chinese immigrants. John Swett, who was the first volunteer
14 teacher for the class, later became a Superintendent of Public
15 Instruction; and

16 WHEREAS, Adult schools, which work in collaboration with
17 community centers and libraries, are a primary community resource
18 for the teaching and instruction of adult literacy; and

19 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide a way for adults to complete
20 secondary-education studies and obtain a high school diploma at
21 their own pace and to prepare for and transition to postsecondary
22 education and career training; and

1 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide to high-school-aged students
2 critical opportunities to recover credit and stay on track for
3 graduation, to prevent dropping out, and to bring recent dropouts
4 back to school; and

5 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide instruction to those in the
6 state who take English as a second language and citizenship courses
7 and play a key role in immigrant integration and the path to United
8 States citizenship, which is important for our diverse community
9 during this time of immigration reform; and

10 WHEREAS, To break the cycle of illiteracy and to support
11 educational equity for all our children, we must focus on educating
12 parents and adult schools provide programs in family literacy at
13 elementary schools in conjunction with community-based
14 organizations; and

15 WHEREAS, Historically, adult schools have been called on to
16 assist the state as it dealt with significant social, political, and
17 economic issues, such as providing job training programs during
18 the Great Depression and training for skilled and underskilled
19 workers during World War II; and

20 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide short-term career and
21 technical training for adults seeking changes or enhancements in
22 their career pathways; and

23 WHEREAS, Adult schools offer varied, market-based education
24 programs to enhance the lifelong learning opportunities in the
25 state; and

26 WHEREAS, The California State Assembly applauds Governor
27 Brown for making adult education a priority by dedicating \$500
28 million in Proposition 98 funds for the Adult Education Block
29 Grant program; and

30 WHEREAS, Adult schools in California still face their biggest
31 challenge, forcing funding that was previously reserved for adult
32 education to be used in other areas of education, resulting in many
33 adult schools decreasing in size, and the actual closing of some
34 adult schools; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
36 week of March 22, 2015, to March 28, 2015, inclusive, be
37 recognized as Adult Education Week, and the teachers,
38 administrators, classified staff, and students of adult education
39 programs statewide be honored for their efforts and
40 accomplishments; and be it further

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

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