

House Resolution

No. 7

Introduced by Assembly Member Lopez

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Calderon, Eggman, Cristina Garcia, Gomez, Gonzalez, Medina, and Rendon Rendon, Achadjian, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brown, Burke, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gordon, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

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

1 San Francisco in 1856. The class was authorized by the San
2 Francisco Board of Education to teach English to Irish, Italian,
3 and Chinese immigrants. John Swett, who was the first volunteer
4 teacher for the class, later became a Superintendent of Public
5 Instruction; and

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

9 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide a way for adults to complete
10 secondary-education studies and obtain a high school diploma at
11 their own pace and to prepare for and transition to postsecondary
12 education and career training; and

13 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide to high-school-aged students
14 critical opportunities to recover credit and stay on track for
15 graduation, to prevent dropping out, and to bring recent dropouts
16 back to school; and

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

22 WHEREAS, To break the cycle of illiteracy and to support
23 educational equity for all our children, we must focus on educating
24 parents and adult schools provide programs in family literacy at
25 elementary schools in conjunction with community-based
26 organizations; and

27 WHEREAS, Historically, adult schools have been called on to
28 assist the state as it dealt with significant social, political, and
29 economic issues, such as providing job training programs during
30 the Great Depression and training for skilled and underskilled
31 workers during World War II; and

32 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide short-term career and
33 technical training for adults seeking changes or enhancements in
34 their career pathways; and

35 WHEREAS, Adult schools offer varied, market-based education
36 programs to enhance the lifelong learning opportunities in the
37 state; and

38 WHEREAS, The California State Assembly applauds Governor
39 Brown for making adult education a priority by dedicating \$500

1 million in Proposition 98 funds for the Adult Education Block
2 Grant program; and

3 WHEREAS, Adult schools in California still face their biggest
4 challenge, forcing funding that was previously reserved for adult
5 education to be used in other areas of education, resulting in many
6 adult schools decreasing in size, and the actual closing of some
7 adult schools; now, therefore, be it

8 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
9 week of March 22, 2015, to March 28, 2015, inclusive, be
10 recognized as Adult Education Week, and the teachers,
11 administrators, classified staff, and students of adult education
12 programs statewide be honored for their efforts and
13 accomplishments; and be it further

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