

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 55

Introduced by Assembly Member Irwin

April 9, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 55—Relative to Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 55, as introduced, Irwin. Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

This measure would recognize the week of April 19 to April 25, 2015, inclusive, as Crime Victims’ Rights Week in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Violent crime continues to exist in California, and
- 2 crime in one part of the state, or crime against one person, affects
- 3 our entire sense of well-being; and
- 4 WHEREAS, All Californians are affected by crime, not just the
- 5 victims of violent crime; and
- 6 WHEREAS, The most effective aid that can be provided to
- 7 victims of crime is to prevent crime from happening in the first
- 8 place; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Since 1981, National Crime Victims’ Rights Week
- 10 has raised awareness of the special needs of crime victims; and
- 11 WHEREAS, This year, the theme for this week is “Engaging
- 12 Communities. Empowering Victims”; and
- 13 WHEREAS, 2015 is a landmark year for crime victims and
- 14 survivors, as well as those who serve them; and

1 WHEREAS, The respect for and protection of victims' rights
2 within the legal process is one of the most critical components of
3 an effective criminal justice system; and

4 WHEREAS, Victims and witnesses of crime require special
5 attention to ensure that they are thoroughly informed about, and
6 effectively participate in, the criminal justice system; and

7 WHEREAS, To the maximum extent allowed by law, victims
8 of violent crime should receive compensation for their losses; and

9 WHEREAS, Each day thousands of victims and witnesses
10 receive assistance from victim support organizations,
11 victim-witness assistance centers, private service providers, and
12 state and local governments; and

13 WHEREAS, The criminal justice system in this state must persist
14 in its effort to better coordinate and improve the quality of services
15 provided to victims and witnesses; and

16 WHEREAS, California has been an innovator in the victims'
17 rights movement, establishing the first crime victim compensation
18 program in the nation in 1965; Women's Advocates and Haven
19 House in Pasadena established the first shelters for battered women
20 in the nation in 1976; and Mothers Against Drunk Driving was
21 founded in 1980 with the establishment of a chapter in Sacramento;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, California citizens enshrined victims' rights in the
24 California Constitution in 1982 through the passage of Proposition
25 8, the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights; and

26 WHEREAS, California citizens reaffirmed and afforded
27 additional rights to victims in the California Constitution and in
28 California law in 2008 through the passage of Proposition 9, the
29 Victims' Bill of Rights Act of 2008: Marsy's Law; and

30 WHEREAS, Each year, the observance of National Crime
31 Victims' Rights Week focuses on the problems confronting victims
32 of crime and the services available to support these victims; and

33 WHEREAS, The remembrances observed during National Crime
34 Victims' Rights Week promote awareness of victims' issues and
35 acknowledge the combined efforts of citizens, the government,
36 and the criminal justice system to improve victims' services in
37 California; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
39 *thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the*

- 1 week of April 19, 2015, through April 25, 2015, inclusive, as Crime
- 2 Victims' Rights Week in California; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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