

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 20, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 55

Introduced by Assembly Member Irwin

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

April 9, 2015

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 55, as amended, 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

1 WHEREAS, All Californians are affected by crime, not just the
2 victims of violent crime; and

3 WHEREAS, The most effective aid that can be provided to
4 victims of crime is to prevent crime from happening in the first
5 place; and

6 WHEREAS, Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week
7 has raised awareness of the special needs of crime victims; and

8 WHEREAS, This year, the theme for this week is "Engaging
9 Communities. Empowering Victims"; and

10 WHEREAS, 2015 is a landmark year for crime victims and
11 survivors, as well as those who serve them; and

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, Each day thousands of victims and witnesses
21 receive assistance from victim support organizations,
22 victim-witness assistance centers, private service providers, and
23 state and local governments; and

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

27 WHEREAS, California has been an innovator in the victims'
28 rights movement, establishing the first crime victim compensation
29 program in the nation in 1965; Women's Advocates and Haven
30 House in Pasadena established the first shelters for battered women
31 in the nation in 1976; and Mothers Against Drunk Driving was
32 founded in 1980 with the establishment of a chapter in Sacramento;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, California citizens enshrined victims' rights in the
35 California Constitution in 1982 through the passage of Proposition
36 8, the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights; and

37 WHEREAS, California citizens reaffirmed and afforded
38 additional rights to victims in the California Constitution and in
39 California law in 2008 through the passage of Proposition 9, the
40 Victims' Bill of Rights Act of 2008: Marsy's Law; and

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

4 WHEREAS, The remembrances observed during National Crime
5 Victims' Rights Week promote awareness of victims' issues and
6 acknowledge the combined efforts of citizens, the government,
7 and the criminal justice system to improve victims' services in
8 California; now, therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
10 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the
11 week of April 19, 2015, through April 25, 2015, inclusive, as Crime
12 Victims' Rights Week in California; and be it further

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