

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 133

Introduced by Assembly Member Chang

February 3, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 133—Relative to Women and Girls in STEM Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 133, as introduced, Chang. Women and Girls in STEM Week.

This measure would designate April 3, 2016, to April 9, 2016, inclusive, as Women and Girls in STEM Week and would encourage all citizens and community organizations to support the observance of California Women and Girls in STEM Week by encouraging and celebrating women in the STEM fields.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Science, Technology, Engineering, and
2 Mathematics (STEM) are critical fields for the success of
3 California’s economy; and
4 WHEREAS, Many of the fastest growing occupations in the
5 United States require some form of expertise in the areas of STEM;
6 and
7 WHEREAS, STEM careers represent some of the highest-paying
8 positions in any field, thereby providing desirable career
9 opportunities and real pathways out of poverty; and
10 WHEREAS, Preparing students for the STEM workforce is
11 essential to fulfill the demands of our 21st century,
12 innovation-focused economy; and

1 WHEREAS, A significant gender gap exists in the participation
2 of STEM disciplines and workforce; and

3 WHEREAS, Women earn nearly 60 percent of bachelor's
4 degrees, but are underrepresented in STEM-related college degrees,
5 especially in the computer sciences and engineering fields; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the Census Bureau, while women
7 make up nearly one-half of the working population, they only
8 represent 26 percent of the STEM workforce; and

9 WHEREAS, Women represented 34 percent of computer
10 occupations in 1990, but that number declined to 27 percent by
11 2011; and

12 WHEREAS, Women in STEM professions earn one-third more
13 than women in non-STEM-related occupations; and

14 WHEREAS, In California the gender disparities among STEM
15 fields are similar if not more pronounced. Only 15 percent of
16 engineering graduates in California are women and only 15 percent
17 of engineers in the workforce are women; and

18 WHEREAS, Despite underrepresentation in the STEM fields,
19 there are many California female leaders who represent the STEM
20 community and serve as role models for young girls preparing for
21 STEM careers; and

22 WHEREAS, Today's women leaders in STEM stand on the
23 shoulders of innovators that came before them, such as Grace
24 Murray Hopper, a pioneer in her field who is credited for inventing
25 the first computer language compiler; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages all citizens
28 and community organizations to support the observance of
29 California Women and Girls in STEM Week by encouraging and
30 celebrating women in the STEM fields; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares April 3, 2016, to April
32 9, 2016, inclusive, as Women and Girls in STEM Week; and be
33 it further

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