

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 179

Introduced by Assembly Member Cooley

May 3, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 179—Relative to Foster Care Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 179, as introduced, Cooley. Foster Care Month.

This measure would declare the month of May 2016 as Foster Care Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In California, there are approximately 66,250
2 children and youth in foster care who need and deserve safe,
3 permanent connections to loving adults, a stable home, and
4 adequate preparation for a secure future; and
5 WHEREAS, The needs of children and youth for belonging and
6 unconditional emotional commitment are best met in families; and
7 WHEREAS, Many California counties have successfully
8 supported permanent family connections for foster youth, provided
9 support for families at risk of entering the child welfare system,
10 and changed practices to fully engage youth, family, and
11 communities, thereby reducing the number of children in foster
12 care; and
13 WHEREAS, California recognizes the enduring and valuable
14 contribution of relatives and foster and adoptive parents who open
15 their hearts, families, and homes to vulnerable children and youth;
16 and

1 WHEREAS, California recognizes the numerous individuals
2 and public and private organizations that work to ensure that the
3 needs of children and youth living in, and leaving, foster care are
4 met, that help provide foster and former foster children and youth
5 with vital connections to their siblings, and that help launch young
6 people into successful adulthood; and

7 WHEREAS, The federal Fostering Connections to Success and
8 Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 offers opportunities to promote
9 permanent families for children in foster care, improve outcomes
10 for older youth in foster care, increase support for Native American
11 foster children, improve the quality of staff working with youth
12 in the child welfare system, expand our support of relative and
13 adoptive caregivers, and assist older youth in securing meaningful
14 supportive transitions from foster care; and

15 WHEREAS, This federal law affirms California's leadership
16 and success in pioneering innovative child welfare approaches;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, California is engaged in continuum of care reform,
19 which is a comprehensive approach to improving the experience
20 and outcomes of children and youth in foster care by improving
21 assessments of children and families to make more informed and
22 appropriate initial placement decisions, emphasizing home-based
23 family care placements of children, appropriately supporting these
24 placements with available services, changing the goals for
25 congregate, also known as group home, care placements, and
26 increasing transparency and accountability for child outcomes;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, California is committed to working in partnership
29 with the federal government and local governments to improve
30 the lives and futures of all children and youth touched by the child
31 welfare system; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
33 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares the month of
34 May 2016 as Foster Care Month; and be it further resolved that

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

O