

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 19, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 179

Introduced by Assembly Member Cooley

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

May 3, 2016

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 179, as amended, 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

1 WHEREAS, The needs of children and youth for belonging and
2 unconditional emotional commitment are best met in families; and

3 WHEREAS, Many California counties have successfully
4 supported permanent family connections for foster youth, provided
5 support for families at risk of entering the child welfare system,
6 and changed practices to fully engage youth, family, and
7 communities, thereby reducing the number of children in foster
8 care; and

9 WHEREAS, California recognizes the enduring and valuable
10 contribution of relatives and foster and adoptive parents who open
11 their hearts, families, and homes to vulnerable children and youth;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, California recognizes the numerous individuals
14 and public and private organizations that work to ensure that the
15 needs of children and youth living in, and leaving, foster care are
16 met, that help provide foster and former foster children and youth
17 with vital connections to their siblings, and that help launch young
18 people into successful adulthood; and

19 WHEREAS, The federal Fostering Connections to Success and
20 Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 offers opportunities to promote
21 permanent families for children in foster care, improve outcomes
22 for older youth in foster care, increase support for Native American
23 foster children, improve the quality of staff working with youth
24 in the child welfare system, expand our support of relative and
25 adoptive caregivers, and assist older youth in securing meaningful
26 supportive transitions from foster care; and

27 WHEREAS, This federal law affirms California's leadership
28 and success in pioneering innovative child welfare approaches;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, California is engaged in continuum of care reform,
31 which is a comprehensive approach to improving the experience
32 and outcomes of children and youth in foster care by improving
33 assessments of children and families to make more informed and
34 appropriate initial placement decisions, emphasizing home-based
35 family care placements of children, appropriately supporting these
36 placements with available services, changing the goals for
37 congregate, also known as group home, care placements, and
38 increasing transparency and accountability for child outcomes;
39 and

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

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

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

O