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Introduced by Senator Jackson

February 24, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21—Relative to Single Parent Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 21, as introduced, Jackson. Single Parent Day.

This measure would proclaim March 21, 2015, as Single Parent Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On March 21, 1984, President Ronald Reagan  
2 proclaimed the first “National Single Parent Day” and the Congress  
3 has designated each March 21st thereafter in commemoration of  
4 single parents; and

5 WHEREAS, President Reagan, in his proclamation, recognized  
6 that single parents can and do provide children with the financial,  
7 physical, emotional, and social support they need to take their  
8 places as productive and mature citizens. He further noted, that  
9 with the active support of friends, relatives, and local communities,  
10 they can do even more to raise their children in the best possible  
11 environment; and

12 WHEREAS, Single parenthood is very common in the United  
13 States. At a given time in 2013, 28 percent of children were living  
14 with a single parent. One-half or more of today’s children will  
15 likely spend at least part of their childhood in a single-parent  
16 family; and

17 WHEREAS, Most single parents are single mothers. In 2013,  
18 77 percent of single parents were single mothers, and 85 percent

1 of the children living with a single parent were living with their  
2 mother; and

3 WHEREAS, The majority of single parents have been married  
4 or are married but separated. In 2013, 55 percent of the children  
5 in single-parent families were living with a parent who was  
6 separated, divorced, or widowed, and 45 percent with a  
7 never-married parent; and

8 WHEREAS, Most single parents have no more than two  
9 children. In 2013, 56 percent of single parents had one child and  
10 30 percent had two children; and

11 WHEREAS, Low wages are very common for United States  
12 single parents, and much more common for single parents than for  
13 other United States workers. In 2009, 39 percent of employed  
14 single mothers were in low-wage employment, with low wage  
15 defined as an hourly wage less than two-thirds of the median hourly  
16 wage; and

17 WHEREAS, Single parents struggle to pay for child care. In  
18 many cases, the average cost of child care is out of reach for a  
19 single parent, especially for those with two or more children; and

20 WHEREAS, The poverty rate for children in single-parent  
21 families is triple the rate for children in two-parent families. In  
22 2012, 42 percent of children in single-parent families were poor,  
23 compared to 13 percent of children in two-parent families; and

24 WHEREAS, Child poverty is linked to poor health and school  
25 dropout; to negative adult outcomes including joblessness, and to  
26 reduced economic output estimated to be about 4 percent of the  
27 Gross Domestic Product; and

28 WHEREAS, The employment rate for single parents in the  
29 United States is above the average single-parent employment rate  
30 in comparison to high income countries. Despite the above average  
31 employment rate, the poverty rate for single-parent families in the  
32 United States is far above the average poverty rate for single-parent  
33 families in comparison to high income countries; and

34 WHEREAS, National Single Parent Day was created to honor  
35 and recognize the hard work, devotion, and sacrifices of single  
36 parenting; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
38 *thereof concurring*, That Saturday, March 21, 2015, be observed  
39 as Single Parent Day; and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the California Legislature encourages all  
2 Californians to recognize the value and contributions provided by  
3 single parents; and be it further

4     *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
5 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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