

**Introduced by Senator McGuire**

**(Coauthors: Senators Beall, Berryhill, Hancock, Jackson, Leno,  
Liu, and Monning)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Calderon, Chiu, Kim, Lopez, Olsen,  
and Mark Stone)**

May 6, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 60—Relative to Foster Care Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 60, as introduced, McGuire. Foster Care Month.

This measure would declare the month of May 2015 as Foster Care Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In California, there are approximately 67,116  
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

1 their hearts, families, and homes to the vulnerable children and  
2 youth; and

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

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

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

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

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

33 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
34 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares the month of  
35 May 2015 as Foster Care Month; and be it further

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

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