

Introduced by Senator Leyva

(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Beall, Cannella, Fuller, Galgiani, Glazer, Hall, Hancock, Hernandez, Jackson, Lara, Liu, McGuire, Mendoza, Mitchell, Monning, Nguyen, Pavley, Roth, Runner, and Wolk)

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 103—Relative to teen dating and violence prevention.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 103, as introduced, Leyva. Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of February 2016 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and would encourage all Californians to observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month with programs and activities that raise awareness about teen dating violence.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Teen dating violence, also known as dating abuse,
- 2 is a serious and growing problem throughout California; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Teen dating violence intervention and prevention
- 4 programs can help to ensure a positive school climate and safe
- 5 learning environment for all pupils, address warning signs of dating
- 6 violence among pupils before behaviors escalate, and protect the
- 7 safety of targeted students; and

1 WHEREAS, Each year, an estimated one in 10 American
2 teenagers is physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, According to the federal Centers for Disease
5 Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 10 percent of high school
6 students have been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by
7 a boyfriend or girlfriend in the past year; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the American Psychological
9 Association, one in three teens ages 14 to 20 years of age have
10 experienced dating abuse, and about the same number say they
11 have committed dating abuse themselves; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the CDC, Dating Matters: Strategies
13 to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships, one in four adolescents
14 report verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual dating abuse each
15 year; and

16 WHEREAS, Forty-three percent of LGBT teens reported
17 experiencing physical dating violence, compared to 29 percent of
18 heterosexual youth; and

19 WHEREAS, Fifty-nine percent of LGBT teens reported
20 experiencing emotional abuse, compared to 46 percent of
21 heterosexual youth; and

22 WHEREAS, Teen dating violence has been linked to other forms
23 of violence and aggression against peers, including bullying, sexual
24 harassment, sexual violence, and physical violence; and

25 WHEREAS, Twenty percent of students with mostly D and F
26 grades have engaged in dating violence in the last year, while only
27 6 percent of students with mostly A's have engaged in dating
28 violence; and

29 WHEREAS, Victims of teen dating violence have increased
30 risk for truancy, dropout, teen pregnancy, suicide, eating disorders,
31 and engaging in other harmful behaviors, such as use of alcohol,
32 tobacco, and other drugs; and

33 WHEREAS, Nearly one-half of students who experience dating
34 violence have reported that some of the abuse took place on school
35 grounds; and

36 WHEREAS, Victims of teen dating violence are also at increased
37 risk for carrying a weapon to school, being threatened or injured
38 with a weapon at school, and damaging school property; and

39 WHEREAS, Pupils who are victims in high school are at higher
40 risk for victimization during college, and adolescent perpetrators

1 of dating violence are more likely to abuse their intimate partners
2 as adults; and

3 WHEREAS, The establishment of Teen Dating Violence
4 Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit schools,
5 communities, families, and all youth; now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
7 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of
8 February 2016 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention
9 Month, and supports communities to empower teens to develop
10 healthy and violence-free relationships throughout their lives; and
11 be it further

12 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon the people of
13 California, including schools, community groups, youth, and
14 families, to observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness and
15 Prevention Month with programs and activities that raise awareness
16 about the dynamics of teen dating violence and support young
17 people in learning the skills to have safe and healthy relationships.