

Introduced by Senator Mendoza

March 1, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 116—Relative to adult education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 116, as introduced, Mendoza. Adult Education Week.

This bill would proclaim the week of April 3, 2016, to April 9, 2016, inclusive, as Adult Education Week, and would honor the teachers, administrators, classified staff, and students of adult education programs statewide for their efforts, persistence, and accomplishments.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The week of April 3, 2016, to April 9, 2016,
2 inclusive, is observed as “Adult Education Week,” recognizing
3 the unique accomplishments of California adult schools; and

4 WHEREAS, The Legislature acknowledges that adult schools
5 that are provided by K-12 school districts offer quality programs
6 to meet the ever-changing economic and workforce development
7 and lifelong learning needs of our diverse state; and

8 WHEREAS, The first recorded adult education class in
9 California was held in the basement of St. Mary’s Cathedral in
10 San Francisco in 1856. The class was authorized by the San
11 Francisco Board of Education to teach English to Irish, Italian,
12 and Chinese immigrants. John Swett, who was the first volunteer
13 teacher for the class, later became a Superintendent of Public
14 Instruction; and

15 WHEREAS, Adult schools, which work in collaboration with
16 community centers and libraries, are a primary community resource
17 for the teaching and instruction of adult literacy; and

1 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide a way for adults to complete
2 secondary-education studies and obtain a high school diploma or
3 its equivalent at their own pace and to prepare for and transition
4 to postsecondary education and career training; and

5 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide critical opportunities to
6 bring recent dropouts back to school; and

7 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide instruction to those in the
8 state who need English as a second language and citizenship
9 courses and play a key role in immigrant integration and the path
10 to United States citizenship, which is important for our diverse
11 community during this time of immigration reform; and

12 WHEREAS, Adult schools, which recognize that we must focus
13 on educating parents in order to break the cycle of illiteracy and
14 to support educational equity for all our children, provide programs
15 in family literacy at elementary schools in conjunction with
16 community-based organizations; and

17 WHEREAS, Historically, adult schools have been called on to
18 assist the state as it dealt with significant social, political, and
19 economic issues, such as providing job training programs during
20 the Great Depression and training for skilled and underskilled
21 workers during World War II; and

22 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide short-term career and
23 technical training for adults seeking changes or enhancements in
24 their career pathways; and

25 WHEREAS, Adult schools offer varied, market-based education
26 programs to enhance the lifelong learning opportunities in the
27 state; and

28 WHEREAS, In 2015, the Legislature and Governor Edmund
29 G. Brown Jr. saved California adult schools from the brink of
30 closure by establishing the Adult Education Block Grant program
31 that is helping to restore access and programming for adult learners
32 with planning and collaboration on a regional scale; now, therefore,
33 be it

34 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
35 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the week of
36 April 3, 2016, to April 9, 2016, inclusive, as Adult Education
37 Week, and that teachers, administrators, classified staff, and
38 students of adult education programs statewide be honored for
39 their efforts, persistence, and accomplishments; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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