

**Introduced by Senator Leyva  
(Coauthors: Senators Beall, Mendoza, Pan, and Vidak)**

April 7, 2016

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 129—Relative to school librarians.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 129, as introduced, Leyva. School Librarians Month.

This bill would proclaim the month of April 2016 as School Librarians Month and would acknowledge the excellent work being done by credentialed teacher librarians and school library staff in all of California’s schools from primary grades to universities.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, With skills such as reading, writing, researching,  
2 critical thinking, and information literacy more important than  
3 ever to individual opportunity and global economic  
4 competitiveness, it is critical that California’s students are exposed  
5 to these 21st century learning skills through trained librarians at  
6 their school libraries; and  
7 WHEREAS, Information literacy is the ability to identify an  
8 information need, as well as locate, evaluate, and use information  
9 effectively and ethically; and  
10 WHEREAS, Because information literacy, digital literacy, and  
11 digital citizenship are mandated elements of public education, it  
12 is critical that school districts provide quality school libraries  
13 staffed with trained librarians to help students excel in these areas;  
14 and  
15 WHEREAS, The lack of a quality school library negatively  
16 affects all students but has the most significant impact on

1 socioeconomically disadvantaged students, English learners, and  
2 foster youth; and

3 WHEREAS, These negative impacts are exacerbated by the  
4 lack of equitable access to school libraries and trained librarians  
5 at schools with large percentages of socioeconomically  
6 disadvantaged students, English learners, and foster youth; and

7 WHEREAS, Research indicates that schools with a quality  
8 school library staffed by credentialed teacher librarians outperform  
9 those without such programs, regardless of the school community's  
10 parent education levels, poverty levels, ethnicity, or percentage of  
11 English learners; and

12 WHEREAS, Based on data from the State Department of  
13 Education, California ranks last in the nation in the number of  
14 credentialed teacher librarians with a ratio of 7,187 students to one  
15 teacher librarian; and

16 WHEREAS, School libraries provide a safe haven on campus  
17 for students during or after school, and it is vital that all students  
18 have the opportunity to discover and learn about issues and subjects  
19 that capture their interest; and

20 WHEREAS, Whereas the presence of a credentialed teacher  
21 librarian is integral to helping students find and pursue their  
22 passions through research materials and books that spark their  
23 interest; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of  
26 April 2016 as School Librarians Month and acknowledges the  
27 excellent work being done by credentialed teacher librarians and  
28 school library staff in all of California's schools from primary  
29 grades to universities; and be it further

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