

Introduced by Senator Cannella
(Principal coauthor: Senator McGuire)
(Coauthors: Senators Bates, Berryhill, Block, Gaines, Hall,
Hertzberg, Leno, and Runner)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Olsen)

May 5, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 140—Relative to foster care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 140, as introduced, Cannella. Foster Care Awareness Month.

This measure would acknowledge the month of May 2016 as Foster Care Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The foster care system in the State of California
2 is a network of government agencies, private, community, and
3 faith-based organizations, families, and individuals working
4 together to provide children and youth safe and supportive living
5 situations when their families are unable to do so; and
6 WHEREAS, The foster care system was developed in the early
7 part of the 20th century based on the premise that a child is better
8 off in a home, rather than an orphanage, even if the child only lives
9 in that home temporarily; and
10 WHEREAS, The goal of many foster care programs is to reunite
11 children with their parents when their parents are able to provide
12 safe and stable homes; and
13 WHEREAS, About 53 percent of the children entering foster
14 care successfully reunite with their parents; and

1 WHEREAS, Many counties in the State of California have
2 reduced the number of children and youth entering foster care by
3 helping at-risk families access community services that provide
4 the skills and resources these families need to effectively care for
5 their children; and

6 WHEREAS, Although the State of California recognizes the
7 importance of maintaining strong, vital connections among foster
8 children and youth, their siblings, and extended families, the state
9 acknowledges that 9 percent will exit foster care to live with
10 nonparent relatives or guardians and 38 percent of children entering
11 foster care will not be reunited with their families; and

12 WHEREAS, To ensure those children receive the best care, the
13 State of California has developed many programs designed to find
14 permanent families for children in foster care, assist older youth
15 in securing meaningful, supportive transitions from foster care,
16 and expand the support of relatives, foster parents, and adoptive
17 caregivers who provide permanent homes to foster children; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of California continues to revise its foster
19 care policies in order to develop a comprehensive approach to
20 assessing the needs of children and families, finding home-based
21 family care placements, supporting these placements with services,
22 and developing thorough information about and an understanding
23 of how children and youth are affected by and benefit from state
24 foster care programs; and

25 WHEREAS, The State of California is committed to improving
26 the lives of all children and youth touched by the child welfare
27 system by working in partnership with all organizations involved
28 in the foster care system and the adoption process; now, therefore,
29 be it

30 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
31 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares the month of
32 May 2016 as Foster Care Awareness Month; and be it further

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