

**Introduced by Senator Gaines
(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, Bates, Block, Hall, and
Wieckowski)**

June 9, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 150—Relative to Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 150, as introduced, Gaines. Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of October 2016, and each following October, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a significant public health
- 2 and safety issue that affects women, men, and children of all racial,
- 3 religious, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in California; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused
- 5 by an intimate partner, which means more than 10 million women
- 6 and men in the United States are abused each year; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Women are four times more likely than men to be
- 8 victims of domestic violence with more than 800,000 women being
- 9 violently assaulted by an intimate partner between 2002 and 2011
- 10 according to United States Department of Justice statistics. Of all
- 11 murder-suicides, 72 percent involve an intimate partner and 94
- 12 percent of the victims of these crimes are female; and
- 13 WHEREAS, California law enforcement agencies received over
- 14 150,000 domestic violence-related calls in 2014, including reports
- 15 of more than 100 domestic violence-related homicides. There are

1 more than 20,000 additional phone calls placed each day to
2 domestic violence hotlines nationwide; and

3 WHEREAS, A victim is not alone in suffering the impacts of
4 domestic violence. Studies indicate that children who witness
5 domestic violence experience long-term consequences, such as
6 difficulty at school, substance abuse, and serious adult health
7 problems, as well as an increased risk of becoming a domestic
8 violence victim or abuser as an adult; and

9 WHEREAS, Because 75 percent of domestic violence victims
10 have children at home under the age of 18, the impact of domestic
11 abuse has both immediate and generational effects. In 2011, nearly
12 21 percent of children in the United States were exposed to
13 domestic violence, either as victims or indirectly as witnesses,
14 illustrating the magnitude of this problem; and

15 WHEREAS, The cost of domestic violence exceeds \$5.8 billion
16 each year in the United States—\$4.1 billion in direct medical and
17 health care services and nearly \$1.8 billion in lost productivity,
18 which includes approximately 8,000,000 days of work lost by
19 abused women each year—equivalent to more than 32,000 full-time
20 jobs; and

21 WHEREAS, Domestic violence programs in California provide
22 essential, lifesaving services to nearly 6,000 victims and their
23 children each day as they flee violence. Overall, state-funded
24 domestic violence programs provide individual counseling to an
25 average of nearly 34,000 victims each year; and

26 WHEREAS, Despite recent reductions in domestic violence
27 incidents, there is an ongoing need to educate the public about
28 domestic violence and to provide all victims access to programs
29 and services; and

30 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes the vital role that all
31 Californians can play in preventing, and one day ending, domestic
32 violence; now, therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
34 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes October 2016,
35 and each following October, as Domestic Violence Awareness
36 Month; and be it further

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

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