

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 20, 1995

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 19

**Introduced by Senators Russell, Haynes, Kopp, and
Monteith**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Baldwin, Boland,
Bordonaro, Conroy, House, Morrissey, and Morrow)

February 21, 1995

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 19—Relative to family values and the entertainment industry.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 19, as amended, Russell. Family values: entertainment industry.

This measure would encourage the entertainment industry to eliminate ~~programming that contains~~ violence, profanity, and sexually explicit acts *or sexually explicit references or innuendoes from daytime and prime-time programming*, and to promote programs that reflect family values and teach civic responsibility, as specified.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The motion picture industry and
2 television programs play an important role in shaping the
3 lives, opinions, and values of our young people; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the Nielsen ratings, the
5 average child in the United States spends more time
6 watching television than performing any other activity,
7 except sleeping; and

1 WHEREAS, A 22-year study conducted by Dr. Leonard
2 Eron, a professor of ~~psychiatry~~ *psychology* and research
3 scientist at the University of ~~Illinois~~ *Michigan, Ann Arbor*,
4 found that “television violence affects youngsters of all
5 ages, of both genders, at all socioeconomic levels and all
6 levels of intelligence, and the effect is not limited to
7 children who are already disposed to being ~~aggressive~~
8 *aggressive*”; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the American Academy of
10 Pediatrics, television viewing can cause violent and
11 aggressive behavior in children; and

12 WHEREAS, The National Institute of Mental Health
13 has funded hundreds of independent studies that clearly
14 demonstrate that exposure to televised violence increases
15 aggressive behavior in children; and

16 WHEREAS, The average adolescent has witnessed
17 200,000 acts of violence, including 33,000 murders, on
18 television by the time he or she reaches high school; and

19 WHEREAS, Cable television allows access to programs
20 designed especially for teens, including MTV, which
21 presents ~~approximately 29 images of brutal violence~~
22 *every hour, 24 hours a day images of brutal violence*; and

23 WHEREAS, Recent statistics show that young children
24 are increasingly involved in more serious crimes,
25 including murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, In 1992, teenagers constituted 16 percent
28 of all arrests for violent crimes, including one-third of all
29 arrests for robberies, about 15 percent of all arrests for
30 murders, rapes, and assaults, and one-half of all arrests for
31 arson and motor theft; and

32 WHEREAS, The National Education Goals Report
33 found that, in 1992, 9 percent of 8th graders, 10 percent
34 of 10th graders, and 6 percent of 12th graders reported
35 they had brought a weapon to school at least once during
36 the previous month; and

37 WHEREAS, A 1993 Louis Harris poll found that 11
38 percent of school children had been shot at by a gun in the
39 past year, and 39 percent knew someone personally who
40 had either been killed or injured from gunfire; and



1 WHEREAS, A United States Justice Department
2 report found that one in five suburban high school boys
3 owns a gun, and that 45 percent of these boys have been
4 threatened with a gun or shot at on the way to or from
5 school during the previous few years; and

6 WHEREAS, A Gallup poll shows that 83 percent of
7 American adults 18 years of age and older believe
8 television violence contributes to violent behavior among
9 children under 18 years of age; and

10 WHEREAS, A Gallup poll shows that 68 percent of
11 American adults 18 years of age and older also believe that
12 the sexual content of television programs contributes to
13 sexual activity among children under the age of 18; and

14 WHEREAS, One million teens become pregnant each
15 year and 69 percent of those births are out of wedlock; and

16 WHEREAS, One in four sexually active teens contracts
17 at least one sexually transmitted disease; and

18 WHEREAS, The number of AIDS cases reported
19 annually among United States adolescents was just 159 in
20 1992, but rocketed to 1,412 in 1993, making teens a very
21 high risk group; and

22 WHEREAS, The average age at which teens are
23 initiating sex is younger now than it was a generation ago,
24 with the average age of first intercourse being 15.7 years
25 for males and 16.2 years for females; and

26 WHEREAS, The entertainment industry may be
27 contributing to the problems of early sexual involvement
28 by featuring and promoting an endless variety of
29 bedroom scenes and themes of sexually liberated
30 teenagers; and

31 WHEREAS, In one year the average teenager sees an
32 estimated 14,000 sexual acts, references, or innuendos on
33 television; and

34 WHEREAS, Daytime talk shows bombard the home
35 with topics that include bestiality, transvestites, wife
36 swapping, sex slaves, sodomy, incest, and adultery; and

37 WHEREAS, A Michigan State University study,
38 commissioned by the Kaiser Family Foundation, found an
39 average of 6.6 sexual incidents per hour-long episode of
40 five popular soap operas examined in August and



1 September of 1994 (“Days of Our Lives” led the list with
2 11.4 incidents per hour of sexual activity); and

3 WHEREAS, Psychology Today reported that 50
4 percent of the babies conceived on soap operas are
5 conceived either before marriage or with someone other
6 than the mother’s husband; and

7 WHEREAS, These television role models send the
8 wrong messages to youths by grossly inflating the sexual
9 promiscuity of real-life American adults, as proved by a
10 new study by the University of Chicago, entitled “The
11 Social Organization of Sexuality,” which reveals that
12 American adults are largely monogamous, with nearly 83
13 percent having had one or zero sexual partners a year;
14 and nearly 75 percent of married men and 85 percent of
15 married women remaining faithful to their partners; and

16 WHEREAS, American society as a whole would benefit
17 from motion picture films and television programs that
18 promote marriage, two-parent families, moral and civic
19 responsibility, law and order, and nonviolent resolution of
20 conflicts; ~~therefore now, therefore,~~ be it

21 *Resolved, by the Senate of the State of California, the*
22 *Assembly thereof concurring,* That the President of the
23 Motion Picture Association of America and the President
24 of the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television
25 Producers, the chairmen or presidents of the major
26 television networks known as ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX,
27 the presidents and chairpersons of the cable television
28 networks, including CNN, MTV, and the local Hispanic
29 stations, and the chairman of the Federal
30 Communications Commission, are hereby requested to
31 accept some of the responsibility for desensitizing an
32 entire generation of children to violence, killing,
33 promiscuous sex, and profanity and take positive steps to
34 reverse this tragic trend, including the following:

35 (a) Eliminate programming that gives an inflated and
36 inaccurate view of sexual promiscuity among American
37 adults;

38 (b) Promote programs that reflect family values,
39 moral values (including those that reflect the true sexual
40 mores of American society as proved by the recent study



1 by the University of Chicago, “The Social Organization of
2 Sexuality”) and teach civic responsibility;

3 (c) Develop programs that discourage activities which
4 can cause out-of-wedlock pregnancy, AIDS, and other
5 sexually transmitted diseases;

6 ~~(d) Eliminate daytime and prime-time programming
7 that contains violence, profanity, and sexually explicit
8 acts, or sexual references or innuendos; and be it further~~

9 ~~Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the
10 Assembly thereof concurring,~~ That the Secretary of the

11 ~~(d) Eliminate violence, profanity, and sexually explicit
12 acts, or sexual references or innuendoes from daytime
13 and prime-time programming; and be it further~~

14 **RESOLVED**, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
15 ~~a copy~~ copies of this resolution to the President of the
16 Motion Picture Association of America and the President
17 of the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television
18 Producers, the chairpersons or presidents of the major
19 television networks known as ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX,
20 the chairpersons or presidents of the various cable
21 television networks, including CNN, MTV, and the local
22 Hispanic stations, and the chairman of the Federal
23 Communications Commission.

