

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 93

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 132

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 93—Relative to labor codes of conduct for California universities and colleges.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 20, 1998.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 93, Burton. California universities and colleges: labor codes of conduct.

This measure would urge all California universities and colleges and the Association of Collegiate Licensing Officers to adopt labor codes of conduct that are as rigorous as those adopted by Duke University.

WHEREAS, California workers and workers in other states have the right under federal and state law to a fair and safe workplace and to reasonable compensation; and

WHEREAS, Workers in other countries also have these rights or the expectation of these rights; and

WHEREAS, Despite federal and state law, sweatshops that utilize child labor and forced labor and other forms of worker exploitation, persist both domestically and in other countries; and

WHEREAS, Federal law, including the Trade Act of 1930, bans the importation of products made with indentured servitude, forced or slave labor into the United States; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Labor has recovered \$14 million in illegally held back wages from 45,000 garment workers, including \$2.9 million in back wages for 1997 alone; and

WHEREAS, The California Department of Industrial Relations has repeatedly uncovered sweatshops within the state in recent years; and

WHEREAS, Among industries that produce goods imported into the United States, the apparel and sporting goods industries have particular problems involving sweatshops and the exploitation of adults and children in the manufacture of some of their products; and

WHEREAS, The Apparel Industry Partnership, comprised of major retail companies, human rights groups, and labor groups, is seeking agreement on a code of conduct to reduce the use of sweatshops and child labor; and

WHEREAS, American consumers have repeatedly expressed an interest in avoiding goods made with exploited labor; and

WHEREAS, American consumers frequently have no ability to know whether a product has been made with exploited labor; and

WHEREAS, Informed consumer choice can be a powerful tool in the reduction of the use of sweatshops and exploited labor; and

WHEREAS, The mission of California universities and colleges includes, or ought to include, a commitment to operate and serve the people of California in a socially responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, Few universities and colleges, and none of those with the largest volume of merchandise sales, have labor codes of conduct covering companies that market their merchandise; and

WHEREAS, The market for college and university-licensed merchandise such as caps, T-shirts, sweatpants, and other items is valued at over \$2 billion a year, with 80 percent of the market coming from apparel products; and

WHEREAS, Several universities, including most recently, Duke University and Brown University, have adopted codes of conduct specifically requiring companies that manufacture products bearing those universities' names to adhere to minimum labor standards both domestically and abroad; and

WHEREAS, The Association of Collegiate Licensing Officers (ACLO) is considering the matter of codes of conduct at its scheduled meetings; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature urges all California universities and colleges and the ACLO to adopt labor codes of conduct of a rigor equal to or exceeding that adopted by Duke University to ensure that university and college licensed merchandise is not made by sweatshops and exploited adult or child labor; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the Board of Regents of the University of California, the Chancellor of the California Community College system, the Chancellor of the California State University system, and the chief executive officers of all private colleges and universities in the state.

