

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 23

Introduced by Assembly Members Reyes and Romero

March 10, 1999

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 23—Relative to
Latina History Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 23, as introduced, Reyes. Latina History Day.

This measure would express support for all efforts that advance the roles of Latina women, and declare March 12, 1999, to be “Latina History Day,” specifically calling attention to the outstanding and numerous contributions made by Latina women throughout history.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Latinas were making significant
2 contributions to the development of California
3 communities even before California became a territory
4 of the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Since then, Latinas have continued to
6 make contributions to the life and history of the United
7 States and the State of California; and

8 WHEREAS, Maria Feliciano Arballo y Gutierrez, a
9 Latina, who came to California with the De Anza
10 expedition in 1775 as a widow with her two young
11 daughters, was the first woman pioneer of the southwest
12 who was not a Native American; and



1 WHEREAS, Other Latina colonists acquired land
2 grants both from Mexico and the new United States
3 government; and

4 WHEREAS, Latina pioneers were forced to endure all
5 the hardships of life on the frontier; they had to be
6 self-sufficient, sometimes even becoming the heads of
7 households; they had to be their own doctors,
8 dressmakers, tailors, and advisors; and

9 WHEREAS, Latinas were the social glue of the
10 community, overseeing the spiritual and physical welfare
11 of their families, their communities, and their workers;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, With the United States' takeover of the
14 southwest, Latinas suffered terribly, as they not only
15 suffered many types of physical abuse but also lost most
16 of their land holdings; and

17 WHEREAS, Despite this suffering, Latinas have
18 nonetheless persisted in their service to their families and
19 to their communities; and

20 WHEREAS, Nowhere is this record of service more
21 clearly shown than in California's labor movement where
22 Latinas have made vital contributions that enrich the
23 history of the California labor movement; and

24 WHEREAS, This record begins with Lucia Gonzalez,
25 commonly known as Lucy Parsons, and continues straight
26 through to Dolores Huerta, cofounder of the United
27 Farm Workers Union; and

28 WHEREAS, California's history is also replete with
29 Latinas as community organizers, as leaders in the mutual
30 benefit societies, and as grassroots activists, a role that led
31 them directly into leadership roles in the Chicano
32 movement, and into participating in the women's
33 movement; and

34 WHEREAS, Latinas, who have continued to be
35 stabilizers of their family, preservers of strong family
36 values, and dedicated religious leaders, today are also
37 officers of firms and own their own businesses; they are
38 among our most significant doctors, dentists, nurses, and
39 health educators, as well as lawyers, judges, astronauts,
40 and policewomen; now, therefore, be it



1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*
2 *Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature expresses
3 its support of all efforts that advance the roles of Latina
4 women, and that the Legislature hereby declares March
5 12, 1999, to be “Latina History Day,” specifically calling
6 attention to the outstanding and numerous contributions
7 made by Latina women throughout history; and be it
8 further

9 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall
10 transmit copies of this resolution to the author for
11 distribution as appropriate.

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