

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 14, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 99

Introduced by Assembly Member Cohn

January 4, 2006

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 99—Relative to Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 99, as amended, Cohn. Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of October 2006 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Home should be a place of warmth,
2 unconditional love, and security; however, for many Americans,
3 home is tainted with violence and fear; and

4 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is much more than the
5 occasional family dispute; and

6 *WHEREAS, Domestic violence, also known as intimate partner*
7 *violence, is a pattern of assaultive or coercive behaviors that*
8 *may include inflicted physical injury, psychological abuse, sexual*
9 *assault, progressive social isolation, stalking, deprivation,*
10 *intimidation, and threats; these behaviors are perpetrated by*
11 *someone who is, was, or wishes to be involved in an intimate or*
12 *dating relationship with an adult or adolescent, and are aimed at*
13 *establishing control by one partner over another; and*

1 WHEREAS, According to the Surgeon General, United States
2 Public Health Service, domestic violence is a societal problem of
3 epidemic proportions; and

4 *WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a serious criminal justice*
5 *and public health problem: in the most recent (July 2000)*
6 *National Violence Against Women Survey, 1.5 percent of*
7 *surveyed women and 0.9 percent of surveyed men said they were*
8 *physically assaulted or raped by a partner in the previous 12*
9 *months; according to these estimates, approximately 1.5 million*
10 *women and 835,000 men are physically assaulted or raped by an*
11 *intimate partner annually in the United States; cumulatively, an*
12 *estimated 25 percent of women and 8 percent of men in the*
13 *United States have been physically or sexually abused by an*
14 *intimate partner at some point in their lives; and*

15 *WHEREAS, Domestic violence has serious health*
16 *consequences: the immediate injuries sustained by victims during*
17 *violent episodes can be severe and sometimes fatal, while*
18 *physical and psychological abuse has been linked to a number of*
19 *adverse medical health effects; domestic violence is linked to*
20 *eight of 10 of the leading indicators for Healthy People 2010; the*
21 *health effects of intimate partner violence often persist for years*
22 *after the abuse has ended; and*

23 *WHEREAS, The costs of domestic violence are substantial.*
24 *The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*
25 *estimated in 1995 that the total cost of intimate partner violence*
26 *against adult women was approximately \$5.8 billion; the great*
27 *majority of these costs, more than \$4 billion, were for health care*
28 *services; and*

29 ~~WHEREAS, According to experts, between two and four~~
30 ~~million American women are battered every year, and~~ *The health*
31 *consequences of intimate partner violence are not limited to the*
32 *adult partner being abused; between 3.3 million and 10 million*
33 *children witness violence in their homes and studies have*
34 *indicate that children who witness intimate partner violence are*
35 *more likely to exhibit both physical health problems and*
36 *behavioral problems; and*

37 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
38 Labor, one million people are assaulted and injured every year as
39 a result of workplace violence, one thousand people are killed
40 every year due to workplace violence, and 30 percent of battered

1 women lose their jobs due to harassment at work by abusive
2 husbands and boyfriends; and

3 WHEREAS, Battering affects families across America in all
4 socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic groups; and

5 *WHEREAS, Identifying and responding to abuse can make a*
6 *difference. Models developed to identify other chronic health*
7 *problems can effectively be applied to intimate partner violence;*
8 *routine inquiry of all patients by skilled health care professionals*
9 *increases opportunities for both identification and effective*
10 *interventions, validates intimate partner violence as a serious*
11 *public health issue, and enables providers to assist both victims*
12 *and their children; and*

13 WHEREAS, More than one-half of the number of women in
14 need of shelter from an abusive environment may be turned away
15 from a shelter due to lack of space; and

16 WHEREAS, Women are not the only targets of domestic
17 violence: young children, elderly persons, and men are also
18 victims in their own homes; and

19 WHEREAS, Emotional, physical, and psychological scars are
20 often permanent; and

21 WHEREAS, A coalition of organizations has emerged to
22 confront this crisis directly. Law enforcement agencies, domestic
23 violence hotlines, battered women and childrens' shelters, health
24 care providers, faith-based organizations, the courts, and the
25 volunteers that serve those entities are helping in the effort to end
26 domestic violence; and

27 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the compassion and
28 dedication of the individuals involved in that effort, applaud their
29 commitment, and increase public understanding of this
30 significant problem; and

31 WHEREAS, The first Day of Unity was celebrated in October
32 1981 and was sponsored by the National Coalition Against
33 Domestic Violence for the purpose of uniting battered womens'
34 advocates across the nation in an effort to end domestic violence;
35 and

36 WHEREAS, That one day has grown into a month of activities
37 at all levels of government, aimed at creating awareness about
38 the problem and presenting solutions; and

39 WHEREAS, The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month
40 was proclaimed in October 1987; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
3 month of October 2006 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month;
4 and be it further

5 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a
6 copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the
7 Governor of the State of California, the Director of the United
8 States Department of Health and Human Services, and to each
9 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of
10 the United States.

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