

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 99

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 130

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

[Filed with Secretary of State September 7, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 99, Cohn. Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Domestic violence has serious health consequences: the immediate injuries sustained by victims during violent episodes can be severe and sometimes fatal, while physical and psychological abuse has been linked to a number of adverse medical health effects; domestic violence is linked to 8 of 10 of the leading indicators for Healthy People

2010; the health effects of intimate partner violence often persist for years after the abuse has ended; and

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

WHEREAS, The health consequences of intimate partner violence are not limited to the adult partner being abused; between 3.3 million and 10 million children witness violence in their homes and studies have indicated that children who witness intimate partner violence are more likely to exhibit both physical health problems and behavioral problems; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Labor, one million people are assaulted and injured every year as a result of workplace violence, one thousand people are killed every year due to workplace violence, and 30 percent of battered women lose their jobs due to harassment at work by abusive husbands and boyfriends; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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