

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 109

Introduced by Assembly Member Montanez

January 25, 2006

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 109—Relative to teen dating violence.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 109, as introduced, Montanez. Teen dating violence.

This measure would recognize February 6-10 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Teen dating violence is a serious and growing
2 problem throughout California; and

3 WHEREAS, Dating violence is controlling, abusive, and
4 aggressive behavior in a relationship, which can occur in
5 heterosexual or homosexual relationships. It can include verbal,
6 emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, or a combination of any of
7 those; and

8 WHEREAS, One in three teenagers has experienced violence
9 in a dating relationship; and

10 WHEREAS, Anyone can be a victim of dating violence. Both
11 boys and girls are victims, but boys and girls tend to abuse their
12 partners in different ways. Girls are more likely to yell, threaten
13 to hurt themselves, pinch, slap, scratch, or kick, while boys are
14 more likely to physically injure or force unwanted sexual activity.
15 Some teenage victims experience violence occasionally while
16 others are abused much more often; and

1 WHEREAS, Young women, ages 16 to 24 years, inclusive,
2 experience the highest rates of dating violence; and

3 WHEREAS, Teenage victims are highly vulnerable to being
4 revictimized; one study found that 80 percent of youths reporting
5 violent behavior had been victimized two or more times; and

6 WHEREAS, Among female students between the ages of 15-20
7 years who reported at least one violent act during a dating
8 relationship, 24 percent reported experiencing extremely violent
9 incidents such as rape or the use of weapons against them; and

10 WHEREAS, In a study of eighth and ninth graders, 25 percent
11 indicated that they had been victims of dating violence, including
12 eight percent who disclosed being sexually abused; and

13 WHEREAS, Approximately one in five female public high
14 school students reported ever experiencing physical or sexual
15 violence from dating partners; and

16 WHEREAS, Teenagers are less likely to report their
17 victimization than adults because of the shock, shame, and stigma
18 attached to being a victim of a crime. These obstacles represent a
19 barrier to vulnerable teenagers seeking help; and

20 WHEREAS, Increased awareness of teenage dating violence is
21 the first step toward prevention of this type of abuse; and

22 WHEREAS, Teenagers deserve to be in a relationship free of
23 the fear of violence. They have a right to have safe relationships;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Governmental, private organizations, public
26 officials as well as private citizens must work together to raise the
27 awareness of the high incidence of teenage dating violence and to
28 promote prevention strategies; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the week of
31 February 6–10 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention
32 Week; and be it be further

33 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
34 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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