

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 93

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 80

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 93—Relative to Summer Learning and Wellness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 11, 2010.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 93, DeSaulnier. Summer Learning and Wellness Month.

This measure would designate July 2010 as “Summer Learning and Wellness Month.”

WHEREAS, A child’s need for meaningful learning and enrichment experiences does not end in June when the school doors close for summer vacation, these needs continue into and through the summer months. Many of these needs are not being met in neighborhoods where poverty is high; and

WHEREAS, All children need summer learning opportunities in order to stay on course academically. Without ongoing summer opportunities to reinforce and learn skills, children, especially children in low-income communities, may fall behind dramatically in many areas of academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, The debilitating effect of an absence of summer learning and enrichment is often referred to as “the summer slide.” The summer slide is characterized by measurable learning loss that includes reading loss and significant achievement gaps between children with lower and higher income parents; and

WHEREAS, The summer slide affects children from low-income families disproportionately. The lack of summer learning opportunities during elementary school years contribute to the ninth-grade achievement gap between youths with lower and higher income parents. As a result, youths with low-income parents are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college; and

WHEREAS, While parents in California consistently cite summer as the most difficult time to ensure that their children have productive things to do, the supply of low-cost summer programs in California is extremely limited relative to the number of children with low-income parents; and

WHEREAS, Summer school is currently the largest provider of summer programming in California, but budget cuts have had a devastating effect on program availability; and

WHEREAS, Many children with low-income parents lose access to healthy school meals and organized physical activity during the summer months; and

WHEREAS, In California, nearly one-third (32 percent) of 5th graders are overweight or obese. Some studies indicate that children gain weight more rapidly when they are out of school for summer. Summer weight gains are especially large for African American and Hispanic children; and

WHEREAS, The national Summer Learning Day on June 21 celebrates how public and private summer programs send young people back to school ready to learn, support families, and help keep children safe and healthy; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature designates July 2010 as Summer Learning and Wellness Month; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the California Legislature recognizes that all children need fun, safe, and educational opportunities in the summertime that prevent summer learning loss and summer weight gain; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.