

Introduced by Senators Hollingsworth and Steinberg

August 20, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 125—Relative to Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 125, as introduced, Hollingsworth. Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day.

This measure would designate September 25, 2010, as Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day and would urge individuals and families who have had no prior involvement with Special Olympics or Best Buddies to contact their local Special Olympics program or visit www.eksday.org and participate.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On Saturday, September 25, 2010, the State of
2 California will participate in the first annual Global Eunice
3 Kennedy Shriver (EKS) Day, an annual celebration of her life and
4 a global call to action for people to commit actions of inclusion,
5 acceptance, and unity for and with people with intellectual
6 disabilities; and

7 WHEREAS, Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day has been created to
8 inspire new fans to experience her legacy and embrace the
9 movement she founded in her backyard; and

10 WHEREAS, What started as an inclusive sports camp in the
11 early 1960s has blossomed into a worldwide movement
12 transforming lives in over 170 countries; and

13 WHEREAS, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of the Special
14 Olympics movement and long-time supporter of Best Buddies,

1 was the leading international advocate for the rights of people with
2 intellectual disabilities;

3 WHEREAS, In awarding her the first “Sportsman of the Year
4 Legacy Award,” Sports Illustrated called her “...one of those
5 revolutionaries who saw opportunity where others saw barriers,
6 someone who started a movement and changed a world”; and

7 WHEREAS, Eunice Kennedy Shriver’s actions helped open the
8 minds of all people to the gifts and talents of individuals with
9 intellectual disabilities; and

10 WHEREAS, Eunice Kennedy Shriver demonstrated an
11 unrelenting, indomitable spirit in action whereby one person could
12 make a difference and change the world; and

13 WHEREAS, For more than half a century, until her passing in
14 2009, Eunice Kennedy Shriver was a tireless champion for those
15 among us who have been neglected and ignored for too long; and

16 WHEREAS, Her love for all people, her belief in justice, and
17 her relentlessly energetic pursuit of a better life for people with
18 intellectual disabilities serves as an example for all of us; and

19 WHEREAS, Her lasting legacy must be our continued
20 commitment to improve and transform the lives of the 200 million
21 people worldwide with intellectual disabilities that still live with
22 diminished opportunities and social disrespect, and are often
23 neglected and hidden away; and

24 WHEREAS, On September 25, 2010, Special Olympics and
25 Best Buddies will lead the world in a celebration of the inspiration,
26 impact, and indomitable spirit of Eunice Kennedy Shriver; and

27 WHEREAS, Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day will be celebrated
28 in this state with a number of activities involving both people with
29 and without intellectual disabilities; and

30 WHEREAS, Thousands of people around the world will commit
31 to perform Eunice Kennedy Shriver Acts (EKS Acts) of inclusion
32 and acceptance for and with persons with intellectual disabilities,
33 by, among other things, inviting them to lunch, volunteering in a
34 special education classroom or vocational center, conducting an
35 awareness campaign at local businesses or schools, becoming a
36 coach for Special Olympics, and offering support to a parent of a
37 child with intellectual disabilities; and

38 WHEREAS, EKS Acts are known as Eunice Kennedy Shriver
39 Acts of Unity, which contribute to furthering her legacy; now,
40 therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature designates September 25,
3 2010, as Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day and urges individuals and
4 families who have had no prior involvement with Special Olympics
5 or Best Buddies to contact their local Special Olympics program
6 or visit www.eksday.org and participate; and be it further
7 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
8 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.