

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 15, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 29

Introduced by Assembly Members Bonilla and Ma

February 24, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 29—Relative to Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 29, as amended, Bonilla. Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

This measure would designate the month of February 2011 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and would encourage all Californians to observe Teen Dating ~~violence~~ Violence Awareness and Prevention Month with appropriate programs and activities that prevent teen dating violence and promote healthy teen relationships in their communities.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Teen dating violence is a serious and growing
- 2 problem throughout California; and
- 3 WHEREAS, In a study of California high school pupils, 7
- 4 percent of pupils in grade 11 indicated that they were victims of
- 5 teenage dating violence in the past 12 months; and
- 6 WHEREAS, According to a Centers for Disease Control and
- 7 Prevention survey, nearly 10 percent of high school pupils have
- 8 been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or
- 9 girlfriend in the 12 months prior to the survey; and

1 WHEREAS, According to Liz Claiborne's 2009 Parent/Teen
2 Dating Violence Poll, approximately one in three adolescent girls
3 in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal
4 abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization
5 rates for other types of violence affecting youth; and

6 WHEREAS, Almost 20 percent of teenage girls exposed to
7 physical dating violence did not attend school due to feeling unsafe
8 at school, or on the way to or from school, on one or more
9 occasions during the last 30 days; and

10 ~~WHEREAS, Pupils cannot learn if they do not feel safe. Pupils~~
11 ~~who experience teen dating violence have lower grades, and 20~~
12 ~~percent of those pupils have failing grades; and~~

13 WHEREAS, Violent relationships in adolescence can have
14 serious ramifications for victims, putting them at higher risk for
15 substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide,
16 and adult victimization; and

17 WHEREAS, The severity of violence among intimate partners
18 has been shown to be greater in cases where a pattern of violence
19 has been established in adolescence; and

20 WHEREAS, Primary prevention programs are a key part of
21 promoting healthy relationships and preventing teen dating
22 violence, and many successful school and community examples
23 include education, community outreach, and social marketing
24 campaigns that are culturally appropriate; and

25 WHEREAS, Skilled assessment and intervention programs are
26 also necessary for youth who perpetrate teen dating violence and
27 youth who are victimized; and

28 WHEREAS, The establishment of Teen Dating Violence
29 Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit schools,
30 communities, families, and all youth; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
32 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature proclaims the month of
33 February 2011 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention
34 Month, and supports communities to empower teens to develop
35 healthy and violence-free relationships throughout their lives; and
36 be it further

37 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages all Californians,
38 including youths, parents, schools, law enforcement, state and
39 local officials, and other interested groups, to observe Teen Dating
40 Violence Awareness and Prevention Month with appropriate

1 programs and activities that prevent teen dating violence and
2 promote healthy teen relationships in their communities; and be
3 it further

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

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