

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 101

**Introduced by Assembly Members Lara and Ma
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Block, Bonilla, Butler,
Campos, Fletcher, Gordon, Hall, Huffman, Mitchell, Monning,
Swanson, Torres, Wieckowski, and Williams)**

February 6, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 101—Relative to Teen Dating
Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 101, as introduced, Lara. Teen Dating Violence Awareness and
Prevention Month.

This measure would designate the month of February 2012 as Teen
Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and would
encourage all Californians to observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness
and Prevention Month with appropriate programs and activities that
raise awareness about teen dating violence and promote healthy teen
relationships in their communities.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Teen dating violence, also known as dating abuse,
2 is a serious and growing problem throughout California; and
3 WHEREAS, In a study of California high school pupils, 7
4 percent of 11th graders indicated that they were victims of teen
5 dating violence in the past 12 months; and
6 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
7 Prevention, nearly 10 percent of high school students have been

1 hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or
2 girlfriend in the past year; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the United States Bureau of Justice
4 Statistics, females 16 to 24 years of age are more vulnerable to
5 intimate partner violence than any other age group, at a rate almost
6 triple the overall average; and

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

12 WHEREAS, Teen dating violence has been linked to other forms
13 of violence and aggression against peers, including bullying, sexual
14 harassment, sexual violence, and physical violence; and

15 WHEREAS, Victims of teen dating violence are at increased
16 risk for low academic performance, truancy, dropout, teen
17 pregnancy, suicide, having eating disorders, and engaging in other
18 harmful behaviors such as use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, A substantial number of incidents of dating
21 violence occur in school buildings and on school grounds; and

22 WHEREAS, Victims of teen dating violence are also at increased
23 risk for carrying a weapon to school, being threatened or injured
24 with a weapon at school, and damaging school property; and

25 WHEREAS, Pupils who are victims in high school are at higher
26 risk for victimization during college, and adolescent perpetrators
27 of dating violence are more likely to abuse their intimate partners
28 as adults; and

29 WHEREAS, Teen dating violence intervention and prevention
30 programs can address warning signs of dating violence among
31 pupils before behaviors escalate, protect the safety of targeted
32 students, and help to ensure a positive school climate and safe
33 learning environment for all pupils; and

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

37 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
38 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of
39 February 2012 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention
40 Month, and supports communities to empower teens to develop

1 healthy and violence-free relationships throughout their lives; and
2 be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon the people of
4 California, including youth, families, schools, and community
5 groups, to observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness and
6 Prevention Month with programs and activities that raise awareness
7 about the dynamics of teen dating violence and support young
8 people in learning the skills to have safe and healthy relationships;
9 and be it further

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

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