

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 136**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Ma**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfeld, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Gorell, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Hall, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Lara, Bonnie Lowenthal, Mansoor, Miller, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Wagner, Wieckowski, and Yamada)*

March 21, 2012

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 136—Relative to Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 136, as amended, Ma. Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week.

This measure recognizes April 15 to April 21, 2012, inclusive, as “Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week.”

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In California, over 500,000 babies are born every  
2 year; and

3 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes  
4 that babies, infants, and toddlers are especially vulnerable to  
5 abusive head trauma, also known as “Shaken Baby Syndrome,”  
6 the pattern of injury that results from an act of violent shaking by  
7 a parent or caregiver; and

8 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome and other inflicted head  
9 trauma is now recognized as a leading cause of child fatalities  
10 among children who are physically abused; and

11 WHEREAS, Researchers at the University of California, Irvine,  
12 report that babies younger than five months of age are at the  
13 greatest risk of injury and death due to abuse or neglect; and

14 WHEREAS, A 2003 report in the Journal of the American  
15 Medical Association surveyed the incidence of Shaken Baby  
16 Syndrome and estimated that an average of 300 children will die  
17 each year from Shaken Baby Syndrome and 600 to 1,200 more  
18 children will be injured; and

19 WHEREAS, Medical professionals believe that there are  
20 thousands of cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome that are  
21 misdiagnosed or undetected; and

22 WHEREAS, It is estimated that during an average year in  
23 California, 220 to 280 children under five years of age will require  
24 medical attention because of inflicted head injuries, and two-thirds  
25 of these injuries are likely to occur in babies or infants younger  
26 than one year of age; and

27 WHEREAS, Roughly one-third of the victims of Shaken Baby  
28 Syndrome will suffer from developmental problems, including  
29 partial or total blindness, hearing loss, seizures, speech and learning  
30 difficulties, paralysis, and severe intellectual disability; and

31 WHEREAS, The infliction of injuries often occurs when a parent  
32 or caregiver is not prepared to cope with the frustration and anger  
33 that can result from the inconsolable crying of an infant or  
34 unrealistic expectations of a child’s behavior; and

35 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome and the injuries inflicted  
36 are preventable; and

37 WHEREAS, The medical costs of treating Shaken Baby  
38 Syndrome cases and the costs of rehabilitation services to surviving  
39 infants average between \$18,000 and \$70,000 for initial  
40 hospitalizations, and may exceed more than \$1,000,000 for the

1 care of a single disabled child over the course of his or her lifetime;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The lifetime cost of the estimated 220 to 280  
4 Shaken Baby Syndrome victims each year in California ranges  
5 between \$78,000,000 and \$104,000,000; and

6 WHEREAS, The costs of those services are primarily paid by  
7 the Medi-Cal program, which in the year 2000 paid for 42.4 percent  
8 of births in the state, and by private health insurers, resulting in  
9 higher taxes and higher health insurance costs for all citizens of  
10 the state; and

11 WHEREAS, At least 75 percent of Shaken Baby Syndrome  
12 victims are Medi-Cal recipients when they are diagnosed; and

13 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome cases further impose costs  
14 to communities in many ways, including the investigation and  
15 prosecution of Shaken Baby Syndrome cases, the tragic disruption  
16 of families, and the special education needs that are frequently  
17 required by those who have survived even modest head traumas;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome prevention programs have  
20 demonstrated that educating new parents about the danger of  
21 shaking young children and how they can help protect their child  
22 from injury can effect a significant reduction in the number of  
23 Shaken Baby Syndrome cases; and

24 WHEREAS, The minimal costs and effort of these educational  
25 and preventative programs avert enormous medical and disability  
26 costs and untold grief for many families; and

27 WHEREAS, Efforts to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome are  
28 supported by numerous organizations, including the National  
29 Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome, the San Francisco Shaken Baby  
30 Syndrome Prevention Project, the San Francisco Child Abuse  
31 Prevention Center, the Hannah Rose Foundation, and the Greater  
32 Bay Area Child Abuse Prevention Council Coalition; now,  
33 therefore, be it

34 *Resolved, by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
35 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature strongly supports efforts  
36 to protect our children, especially through education and awareness  
37 activities that enable parents to keep their children safe from injury  
38 and neglect; and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes the week of April 15  
2 to April 21, 2012, inclusive, as “Shaken Baby Syndrome  
3 Awareness Week” in the State of California; and be it further

4     *Resolved*, That the Legislature requests that the Governor  
5 proclaim the week of April 15 to April 21, 2012, inclusive, as  
6 “Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week” in the State of  
7 California; and be it further

8     *Resolved*, That the Legislature shall undertake, and encourages  
9 the Governor to undertake, all practicable efforts to educate new  
10 parents, child care providers, foster and adoptive parents,  
11 babysitters, and other persons who care for our children about  
12 Shaken Baby Syndrome, including the causes and consequences  
13 of shaking injuries, the need to be prepared to cope with frustration  
14 and anger, and the need to educate caregivers on ways to help  
15 protect children from injury; and be it further

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