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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
LIA LOPEZ

**Assembly
California Legislature
Committee on Rules**

**BLANCA PACHECO
CHAIR**

**VICE CHAIR
LACKEY, TOM**

MEMBERS
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DIXON, DIANE
GARCIA, ROBERT
GONZÁLEZ, MARK
IRWIN, JACQUI
RODRIGUEZ, MICHELLE
SANCHEZ, KATE
ZBUR, RICK CHAVEZ

ARAMBULA, JOAQUIN (D-ALT)
TA, TRI (R-ALT)

Monday, April 13, 2026
10 minutes prior to Session
State Capitol, Room 126

CONSENT AGENDA

BILL REFERRALS

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RESOLUTIONS

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JOAQUIN ARAMBULA (D-ALT.)
TRI TA (R-ALT.)

Memo

To: Rules Committee Members
From: Michael Erke, Bill Referral Consultant
Date: 4/10/2026
Re: Consent Bill Referrals

Since you received your preliminary list of bill referrals, there have been no changes.

REFERRAL OF BILLS TO COMMITTEE

04/13/2026

Pursuant to the Assembly Rules, the following bills were referred to committee:

| Assembly Bill No. | Committee: |
|-------------------|------------------|
| <u>ACA 9</u> | U. & E. |
| <u>ACA 18</u> | HIGHER ED. |
| <u>ACR 171</u> | RLS. |
| <u>ACR 172</u> | RLS. |
| <u>ACR 173</u> | E.D., G., & H.I. |
| <u>ACR 174</u> | RLS. |
| <u>AJR 29</u> | ELECTIONS |
| <u>HR 101</u> | RLS. |
| <u>HR 102</u> | RLS. |
| <u>HR 103</u> | RLS. |
| <u>HR 104</u> | RLS. |
| <u>SCR 138</u> | RLS. |

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 130

Introduced by Assembly Member Ta

February 5, 2026

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 130—Relative to Sylvia Mendez Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 130, as introduced, Ta. Sylvia Mendez Day.

This measure would declare April 14 of each year as Sylvia Mendez Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The landmark United States Supreme Court case
2 Mendez v. Westminster School Dist. of Orange County (S.D. Cal.
3 1946) 64 F.Supp. 544, affd. Westminster School Dist. of Orange
4 County v. Mendez (9th Cir. 1947) 161 F.2d 774 (hereafter Mendez
5 v. Westminster) was a pivotal decision in the struggle for civil
6 rights and educational equality for Mexican American students in
7 California; and

8 WHEREAS, The case arose from discriminatory practices
9 occurring all over America where Mexican American children
10 were segregated into “Mexican schools” under the guise of separate
11 but equal policies; and

12 WHEREAS, The Mendez v. Westminster case challenged these
13 policies, asserting that the segregation of Mexican American
14 children violated their rights under the 14th Amendment to the
15 United States Constitution, which guarantees equal protection
16 under the law; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States District Court’s ruling in Mendez
2 v. Westminster was one of the first major legal decisions to strike
3 down segregation in schools in the United States, paving the way
4 for future desegregation cases, including the landmark Brown v.
5 Board of Ed. of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kan. (1954) 347 U.S.
6 483 (hereafter Brown v. Board of Education); and

7 WHEREAS, Earl Warren, who was Governor of California at
8 the time of the Mendez v. Westminster case, supported the legal
9 action and the bill that led to the end of school segregation in
10 California, and later was appointed as Chief Justice of the United
11 States Supreme Court, played a key role in the writing of the Brown
12 v. Board of Education decision, which extended the principles of
13 Mendez v. Westminster nationwide; and

14 WHEREAS, Thurgood Marshall, an influential civil rights
15 attorney and later an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme
16 Court, played a pivotal role in the national civil rights movement
17 by a writing a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the plaintiffs
18 in Mendez v. Westminster case, using legal arguments that would
19 later inform his work on Brown v. Board of Education, helping to
20 shape the legal foundation for desegregating public schools across
21 the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, California led the United States in banning school
23 segregation, with the Mendez v. Westminster case setting a crucial
24 precedent that resulted in the Legislature passing laws to eliminate
25 school segregation in the state, well before the national legal
26 landscape was transformed by Brown v. Board of Education; and

27 WHEREAS, Members of the Latino community in California,
28 particularly Mexican American families, were among the first to
29 challenge and fight against the segregation of public schools in
30 the United States, laying the groundwork for the broader civil
31 rights movement and the eventual nationwide struggle for equal
32 access to education; and

33 WHEREAS, The case was brought forth by four Mexican
34 American families from school districts in the communities of
35 Westminster, Garden Grove, and El Modena, and the City of Santa
36 Ana, with the support of civil rights organizations, including the
37 American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and prominent figures
38 such as Thurgood Marshall; and

39 WHEREAS, The Mendez v. Westminster decision had a
40 profound impact not only on the educational system of California

1 but also on the civil rights movement, as it marked an early victory
2 in the ongoing fight against racial segregation and discrimination
3 in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, The legal precedent set by *Mendez v. Westminster*
5 was a significant step toward the eventual dismantling of racial
6 segregation across the nation and was instrumental in shaping the
7 civil rights landscape of the 20th century; and

8 WHEREAS, It is important to honor and recognize the courage
9 of the families and the contributions of the legal and civil rights
10 advocates who fought for justice in this landmark case, which
11 continues to inspire efforts toward equality and inclusion in
12 education and society; and

13 WHEREAS, April 14 of each year marks the anniversary of the
14 United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit decision in
15 *Mendez v. Westminster*, and it is fitting to commemorate this day
16 as a reminder of the ongoing fight for equal rights and the
17 importance of education in fostering a just and equitable society:
18 now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares April 14 of each
21 year as Sylvia Mendez Day, in recognition of the significance of
22 the historic *Mendez v. Westminster* case in advancing civil rights
23 and promoting educational equality for all students in California
24 and the United States; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all Californians to
26 reflect on the importance of the *Mendez v. Westminster* case, to
27 honor the courage of the individuals who fought for justice, and
28 to continue working toward a more inclusive and equitable society
29 for future generations; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
31 of this resolution to the Governor, to the families of the plaintiffs
32 in *Mendez v. Westminster*, to the State Department of Education,
33 and to the author for appropriate distribution.

O

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 130 (Ta) – As Introduced February 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Sylvia Mendez Day.

SUMMARY: Declares April 14 of each year as Sylvia Mendez Day, in recognition of the significance of the historic Mendez v. Westminster case in advancing civil rights and promoting educational equality for all students in California and the United States. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The landmark United States Supreme Court case Mendez v. Westminster School Dist. of Orange County (S.D. Cal. 1946) 64 F.Supp. 544, affd. Westminster School Dist. of Orange County v. Mendez (9th Cir. 1947) 161 F.2d 774 (hereafter Mendez v. Westminster) was a pivotal decision in the struggle for civil rights and educational equality for Mexican American students in California.
- 2) The case arose from discriminatory practices occurring all over America where Mexican American children were segregated into “Mexican schools” under the guise of separate but equal policies.
- 3) The Mendez v. Westminster case challenged these policies, asserting that the segregation of Mexican American children violated their rights under the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees equal protection under the law.
- 4) The United States District Court’s ruling in Mendez v. Westminster was one of the first major legal decisions to strike down segregation in schools in the United States, paving the way for future desegregation cases, including the landmark Brown v. Board of Ed. of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kan. (1954) 347 U.S. 483 (hereafter Brown v. Board of Education).
- 5) Earl Warren, who was Governor of California at the time of the Mendez v. Westminster case, supported the legal action and the bill that led to the end of school segregation in California, and later was appointed as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, played a key role in the writing of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, which extended the principles of Mendez v. Westminster nationwide.
- 6) California led the United States in banning school segregation, with the Mendez v. Westminster case setting a crucial precedent that resulted in the Legislature passing laws to eliminate school segregation in the state, well before the national legal landscape was transformed by Brown v. Board of Education.
- 7) The Mendez v. Westminster decision had a profound impact not only on the educational system of California but also on the civil rights movement, as it marked an early victory in the ongoing fight against racial segregation and discrimination in the United States.

- 8) The legal precedent set by Mendez v. Westminster was a significant step toward the eventual dismantling of racial segregation across the nation and was instrumental in shaping the civil rights landscape of the 20th century.
- 9) It is important to honor and recognize the courage of the families and the contributions of the legal and civil rights advocates who fought for justice in this landmark case, which continues to inspire efforts toward equality and inclusion in education and society.
- 10) April 14 of each year marks the anniversary of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit decision in Mendez v. Westminster, and it is fitting to commemorate this day as a reminder of the ongoing fight for equal rights and the importance of education in fostering a just and equitable society.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 143

Introduced by Assembly Member Pacheco

February 19, 2026

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 143—Relative to Cities Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 143, as introduced, Pacheco. California Cities Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of April 19, 2026, to April 25, 2026, inclusive, to be California Cities Week, and would encourage all Californians to be involved in their communities and be civically engaged with their local government.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Cities first arose when eight California
2 municipalities incorporated in 1850 to provide essential safety and
3 health services to the rapidly growing population of the territory
4 of California, due to the periods of economic prosperity and
5 immigration that followed the Gold Rush and both world wars;
6 and
7 WHEREAS, Today, California’s 483 cities and towns vary in
8 size and scope and serve diverse communities throughout the state,
9 from small rural neighborhoods to large urban regions; and
10 WHEREAS, More than 80 percent of California’s population
11 resides within municipalities and receives city services; and
12 WHEREAS, the California Constitution grants several powers
13 to cities, including the authority to promote and regulate public
14 safety, the authority to raise revenue for public purposes, and the

1 power to operate public works to furnish residents with light, water,
2 power, heat, transportation, and communication; and
3 WHEREAS, Cities provide millions of Californians with
4 essential services, including public libraries, fire departments,
5 police departments, emergency medical and disaster response,
6 parks and recreation, childcare, community and human services
7 programs, solid waste and recycling management, water, sewer,
8 utilities, land use planning, housing, economic development,
9 transportation planning, maintenance of streets and roads,
10 telecommunications, and more; and
11 WHEREAS, While cities differ in matters of population,
12 geography, and economy, they share essential beliefs and values;
13 and
14 WHEREAS, Cities remain transparent and accountable to the
15 communities they serve, and have earned the trust placed in them
16 by local residents; now, therefore, be it
17 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
18 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
19 week of April 19, 2026, to April 25, 2026, inclusive, to be
20 California Cities Week and encourages all Californians to be
21 involved in their communities and to be civically engaged with
22 their local government, and be it further;
23 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
24 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 143 (Pacheco) – As Introduced February 19, 2026

SUBJECT: California Cities Week.

SUMMARY: Proclaims the week of April 19, 2026, to April 25, 2026, to be California Cities Week; and, encourages all Californians to be involved in their communities and be civically engaged with their local government. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Cities first arose when eight California municipalities incorporated in 1850 to provide essential safety and health services to the rapidly growing population of the territory of California, due to the periods of economic prosperity and immigration that followed the Gold Rush and both world wars.
- 2) Today, California's 483 cities and towns vary in size and scope and serve diverse communities throughout the state, from small rural neighborhoods to large urban regions.
- 3) The California Constitution grants several powers to cities, including the authority to promote and regulate public safety, the authority to raise revenue for public purposes, and the power to operate public works to furnish residents with light, water, power, heat, transportation, and communication.
- 4) Cities provide millions of Californians with essential services, including public libraries, fire departments, police departments, emergency medical and disaster response, parks and recreation, childcare, community and human services programs, solid waste and recycling management, water, sewer, utilities, land use planning, housing, economic development, transportation planning, maintenance of streets and roads, telecommunications, and more.
- 5) While cities differ in matters of population, geography, and economy, they share essential beliefs and values. Cities remain transparent and accountable to the communities they serve, and have earned the trust placed in them by local residents.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA)

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800



915 L Street., Suite 1210
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 326-5800
CMUA.org

March 12, 2026

The Honorable Blanca Pacheco
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite #4510
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **ACR 143 (Pacheco) California Cities Week**
SUPPORT *(As Introduced)*

Dear Assembly Member Pacheco,

The California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) is pleased to **support** your ACR 143, which would proclaim the week of April 19, 2026, to April 25, 2026, to be California Cities Week, and would encourage all Californians to be involved in their communities and be civically engaged with their local government. CMUA represents 86 publicly owned electric, gas, water, and wastewater utilities statewide. Together, CMUA members provide water to 75 percent of Californians and energy to 25 percent of the state.

CMUA's city members help keep the lights on and the water flowing for customers across the state. The tireless work of our members ensures that our customers know they have safe, affordable, and reliable utility services.

We commend you for authoring this measure to recognize our state's cities. For these reasons, CMUA strongly **supports** ACR 143. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 827-7113 or ddolfie@cmua.org.

Sincerely,

Derek Dolfie
Director of Energy
California Municipal Utilities Association

cc: Members, California State Assembly

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 158

Introduced by Assembly Member Solache

March 5, 2026

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 158—Relative to Donate Life Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 158, as introduced, Solache. Donate Life Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of April 2026 as Donate Life Month in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Legislature has established an official state
2 organ and tissue donor registry that has become the largest in the
3 world, with almost 20,000,000 people signed up to save and heal
4 the lives of others after death, although there is work to be done
5 with our growing population of over 40,000,000; and

6 WHEREAS, California has the greatest need for transplantation
7 in the nation, with almost 20,000 residents waiting for a second
8 chance at life; and

9 WHEREAS, One thousand eight hundred fifty-three Californians
10 became organ donors in 2025 and over 4,000 lifesaving transplants
11 were performed in our state that year. Tragically, more than 800
12 people died while waiting due to the shortage of available organs;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Donate Life California’s vision is that one day all
15 Californians will embrace organ, eye, and tissue donation as their
16 personal responsibility; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring*, That in recognition of the month of April as
3 National Donate Life Month, the Legislature proclaims the month
4 of April 2026 as Donate Life Month in the State of California; and
5 be it further
6 *Resolved*, That in doing so, the Legislature encourages all
7 Californians to register with the Donate Life California Organ and
8 Tissue Donor Registry by checking “YES!” for organ and tissue
9 donation when applying for or renewing a driver’s license or
10 identification card, or by signing up at
11 www.donateLIFEcalifornia.org or www.doneVIDAcalifornia.org;
12 and be it further
13 *Resolved*, That the Legislature underscores its renewed efforts
14 to save more lives through donor registration and calls on all
15 Members of the Legislature to consider how to share information
16 about the cause and about actions to help their constituents in need;
17 and be it further
18 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
19 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 158 (Solache) – As Introduced March 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Donate Life Month.

SUMMARY: Proclaims the month of April 2026 as Donate Life Month in the State of California; and, encourages all Californians to register with the Donate Life California Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The Legislature has established an official state organ and tissue donor registry that has become the largest in the world, with almost 20 million people signed up to save and heal the lives of others after death although there is work to be done with our growing population of over 40 million.
- 2) California has the greatest need for transplantation in the nation, with almost 20,000 residents waiting for a second chance at life.
- 3) 1,853 Californians became organ donors in 2025 and over 4,000 lifesaving transplants were performed in our state that year. Tragically, more than 800 people died while waiting due to the shortage of available organs.
- 4) Donate Life California’s vision is that one day all Californians will embrace organ, eye, and tissue donation as their personal responsibility.
- 5) All Californians are encouraged to register with the Donate Life California Organ and Tissue Donor Registry by checking “YES!” for organ and tissue donation when applying for or renewing a driver’s license or identification card.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Donate Life California

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

March 26, 2026
The Honorable Jose Solache
Assemblymember, State of California
1021 O St. Ste 5110
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: ACR 158 (Solache) Donate Life Month. – SPONSOR/SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Solache:

Donate Life California (DLC) is pleased to support ACR 158, relative to Donate Life California Month, which would proclaim the month of April 2026 as Donate Life Month in California and encourage all Californians to register with the Donate Life California Organ and Tissue Donor Registry.

Donate Life California is the state-authorized non-profit organ and tissue donor registry dedicated to saving the lives of thousands of Californians awaiting life-saving transplants and administered by California's four nonprofit, federally designated organ procurement organizations.

Donate Life California's continued partnership with the Department Motor of Vehicles (DMV) and newest partnerships with the Franchise Tax Board (FTB), California State Universities (CSUs), California Community Colleges (CCs) and Universities of California (UCs) have provided Californians the power to enroll with the Donate Life California Registry and ensure their wish to be an organ donor is honored.

However, there is still much work to be done. There are currently almost 20,000 Californians waiting on the donor list for a second chance at life. Just last year 1,853 Californians became organ donors and over 4,000 lifesaving transplants were performed throughout the State, but tragically more than 800 people died while on the waitlist.

Donate Life California appreciates your leadership in this space and the continued efforts to ensure that as many lives as possible are saved by organ donation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Martin".

Jim Martin, CEO
Donate Life California

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 170

Introduced by Assembly Member Wallis

March 26, 2026

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 170—Relative to Mosquito Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 170, as introduced, Wallis. Mosquito Awareness Week.

This measure would declare that the week of April 19, 2026, to April 25, 2026, inclusive, be designated as Mosquito Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection
2 Agency recognizes that mosquitoborne diseases are currently
3 among the world’s leading causes of illness and death; and

4 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization estimates that
5 more than 300,000,000 clinical cases each year are attributable to
6 mosquito-borne illnesses; and

7 WHEREAS, Excess numbers of mosquitoes and other vectors
8 spread diseases, reduce the enjoyment of both public and private
9 outdoor living spaces, reduce property values, hinder outdoor work,
10 reduce livestock productivity, and have a negative impact on the
11 environment; and

12 WHEREAS, Climate change is driving extreme weather events,
13 including heavy rains, flooding, hurricanes, and wildfire burn scars,
14 that expand mosquito breeding habitats, prolongs mosquito seasons,
15 accelerates the spread of the invasive and costly to control Aedes

1 species, and forces mosquito control agencies into reactive public
2 health responses; and
3 WHEREAS, Two invasive mosquito species in California, *Aedes*
4 *albopictus*, the Asian tiger mosquito, which was detected in
5 southern California in 2011, and *Aedes aegypti*, the yellow fever
6 mosquito, which was detected in central and northern California
7 in 2013 and southern California in 2014 and currently found in 28
8 counties statewide, are posing new public health threats due to
9 their capability to transmit potentially deadly or debilitating
10 diseases, such as dengue fever, yellow fever, chikungunya, and
11 Zika virus, which can cause significant birth defects; and
12 WHEREAS, Since 2015, there have been 769 travel-associated
13 cases of Zika virus detected in California, including 244 infections
14 in pregnant women and 16 infants born with complications; and
15 WHEREAS, Since 2016, there have been 2,033 travel-associated
16 cases of dengue fever in 45 counties, and the presence of the
17 mosquito vector in California has resulted in 26 locally acquired
18 human cases of dengue fever since 2023; and
19 WHEREAS, In addition to new, emerging diseases, California
20 must remain vigilant in fighting known diseases. West Nile virus
21 is a mosquito-borne disease that can result in debilitating cases of
22 meningitis and encephalitis, and death to humans, horses, avian
23 species, and other wildlife; and
24 WHEREAS, In 2025, West Nile virus resulted in 11 human
25 deaths in California and 113 individual cases in 23 counties; and
26 WHEREAS, In 2025, there were 0 human cases of St. Louis
27 encephalitis virus; and
28 WHEREAS, In 2025, 6 locally acquired human cases of dengue
29 fever were detected in southern California, making it the third year
30 of documented local transmission; and
31 WHEREAS, A 2010 study from the University of California,
32 Los Angeles found that low socioeconomic status was an indicator
33 of the likelihood of West Nile virus cases; and
34 WHEREAS, Adequately funded mosquito and vector control,
35 disease surveillance, and public awareness programs, coupled with
36 best management practices on public and private lands, are the
37 best ways to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other
38 diseases borne by mosquitoes and other vectors; and
39 WHEREAS, As a result of the threat mosquitoes posed to
40 California’s economic development and health of its citizens, the

1 Legislature enacted California’s Mosquito Abatement Districts
2 Act (Assembly Bill 1590 of the 1915 Regular Session) 111 years
3 ago; and

4 WHEREAS, Professional mosquito and vector control, based
5 on scientific research, has made great advances in safely reducing
6 mosquito and vector populations and the diseases they transmit;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Established mosquito-borne and vector-borne
9 diseases such as plague, Lyme disease, flea-borne typhus, and
10 encephalitis, and new and emerging vector-borne diseases, such
11 as hantavirus, arenavirus, babesiosis, and ehrlichiosis, cause illness
12 and sometimes death every year in California; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2019, the Legislature established the California
14 Mosquito Surveillance and Research Program to support advanced
15 data collection and analysis tools, such as the California
16 Vectorborne Disease Surveillance Gateway (CalSurv), and to foster
17 collaborative research in vector control; and

18 WHEREAS, Mosquito and vector control districts throughout
19 California work closely with the United States Environmental
20 Protection Agency and the State Department of Public Health to
21 reduce pesticide risks to humans, animals, and the environment
22 while protecting human health from mosquito-borne and
23 vector-borne diseases and nuisances; and

24 WHEREAS, Best management practices, emphasizing
25 nonchemical approaches, have been developed to guide mosquito
26 control that can significantly reduce mosquito populations for new
27 developments and on state and private lands; and

28 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health maintains
29 information on how to eliminate risks from vectors at both
30 www.cdph.ca.gov and westnile.ca.gov, which the public is
31 encouraged to review; and

32 WHEREAS, The public’s awareness of the health benefits
33 associated with safe, professionally applied mosquito and vector
34 control methods will support these efforts, as well as motivate the
35 state and the public to eliminate mosquito and vector breeding
36 sites on public and private property; and

37 WHEREAS, Educational programs have been developed to
38 include schools, civic groups, private industry, and governmental
39 agencies in order to meet the public’s need for information about

1 West Nile virus, other diseases, and mosquito and vector biology
2 and control; and

3 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in reduced production
4 of mosquitoes and other vectors on residential, commercial, and
5 public lands by responsible parties, avoidance of the bites of
6 mosquitoes and other vectors when the risk of West Nile virus and
7 other disease transmission is high, detection of human cases of
8 mosquito-borne and vector-borne diseases that otherwise may be
9 misdiagnosed for lack of appropriate laboratory testing, and the
10 formation of mosquito or vector control agencies where needed;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in action to provide
13 adequate funding for existing mosquito and vector control agencies
14 or to create control agencies in areas where there are no existing
15 controls; and

16 WHEREAS, Mosquito Awareness Week will increase the
17 public’s awareness of the threat of dengue fever, West Nile virus,
18 and other diseases, and the activities of the various mosquito vector
19 surveillance and control agencies working to minimize the health
20 threat within California, and will highlight the educational
21 programs currently available; and

22 WHEREAS, The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of
23 California has designated the week of April 19, 2026, to April 25,
24 2026, inclusive, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector
25 Control Awareness Week in California; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares that the
28 week of April 19, 2026, to April 25, 2026, inclusive, be designated
29 as Mosquito Awareness Week; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy
31 of this resolution to the Governor, the State Public Health Officer,
32 and the author for appropriate distribution.

O

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 170 (Wallis) – As Introduced March 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Mosquito Awareness Week.

SUMMARY: Declares that the week of April 19, 2026, to April 25, 2026, inclusive, be designated as Mosquito Awareness Week. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The United States Environmental Protection Agency recognizes that mosquito-borne diseases are currently among the world's leading causes of illness and death. And, the World Health Organization estimates that more than 300 million clinical cases each year are attributable to mosquito-borne illnesses.
- 2) Excess numbers of mosquitoes and other vectors spread diseases, reduce the enjoyment of both public and private outdoor living spaces, reduce property values, hinder outdoor work, reduce livestock productivity, and have a negative impact on the environment.
- 3) Climate change is driving extreme weather events, including heavy rains, flooding, hurricanes, and wildfire burn scars, that expand mosquito breeding habitats, prolongs mosquito seasons, accelerates the spread of the invasive and costly to control *Aedes* species, and forces mosquito control agencies into reactive public health responses.
- 4) Adequately funded mosquito and vector control, disease surveillance, and public awareness programs, coupled with best management practices on public and private lands, are the best ways to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other diseases borne by mosquitoes and other vectors.
- 5) Professional mosquito and vector control, based on scientific research, has made great advances in safely reducing mosquito and vector populations and the diseases they transmit.
- 6) In 2019, the Legislature established the California Mosquito Surveillance and Research Program to support advanced data collection and analysis tools, such as the California Vectorborne Disease Surveillance System (CalSurv), and to foster collaborative research in vector control.
- 7) Mosquito and vector control districts throughout California work closely with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of Public Health to reduce pesticide risks to humans, animals, and the environment while protecting human health from mosquito-borne and vector-borne diseases and nuisances.
- 8) Best management practices, emphasizing nonchemical approaches, have been developed to guide mosquito control that can significantly reduce mosquito populations for new developments and on state and private lands.

- 9) The public's awareness of the health benefits associated with safe, professionally applied mosquito and vector control methods will support these efforts, as well as motivate the state and the public to eliminate mosquito and vector breeding sites on public and private property.
- 10) Educational programs have been developed to include schools, civic groups, private industry, and government agencies in order to meet the public's need for information about West Nile virus, other diseases, and mosquito and vector biology and control.
- 11) Mosquito Awareness Week will increase the public's awareness of the threat of dengue, West Nile virus, and other diseases, and the activities of the various mosquito vector research and control agencies working to minimize the health threat within California, and will highlight the educational programs currently available.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 171

Introduced by Assembly Member Celeste Rodriguez

April 6, 2026

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 171—Relative to California Home Visiting Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 171, as introduced, Celeste Rodriguez. California Home Visiting Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of April 20, 2026, to April 24, 2026, inclusive, as California Home Visiting Week, and would encourage all Californians to recognize and celebrate the contributions of home visiting programs and professionals and the families they serve.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Home visiting programs are voluntary,
2 evidence-based strategies that provide family-centered support to
3 pregnant people and families with infants and young children,
4 connecting them to health care, child development resources, and
5 community supports; and

6 WHEREAS, Evidence-based home visiting models identified
7 by the federal Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness (HomVEE)
8 project have demonstrated positive outcomes, including improved
9 maternal and child health, enhanced child development and school
10 readiness, strengthened parenting practices, and reductions in child
11 maltreatment; and

12 WHEREAS, In California, programs such as the CalWORKs
13 Home Visiting Program and the California Home Visiting Program

1 serve families across diverse communities, prioritizing those facing
2 economic hardship and structural inequities, and have supported
3 tens of thousands of families with young children; and
4 WHEREAS, Home visiting programs support families during
5 pregnancy and the earliest years of life by promoting healthy
6 prenatal behaviors, supporting positive birth outcomes, helping
7 parents understand and respond to their child’s developmental
8 needs, and supporting their educational and career goals; and
9 WHEREAS, Research from the Center on the Developing Child
10 at Harvard University demonstrates that early childhood
11 experiences, especially the first five years, shape the development
12 of brain architecture, which provides the foundation for lifelong
13 learning, behavior, and health; and
14 WHEREAS, The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard
15 University further finds that toxic stress—prolonged activation of
16 the stress response system in the absence of supportive
17 relationships—can disrupt healthy brain development and lead to
18 adverse lifelong outcomes; and
19 WHEREAS, Home visiting programs strengthen protective
20 relationships between caregivers and children, helping to buffer
21 the effects of toxic stress and promote safe, stable, and nurturing
22 environments; and
23 WHEREAS, Economic research, including the work of Nobel
24 Laureate economist James Heckman, demonstrates that investments
25 in early childhood, particularly from the prenatal period through
26 three years of age, yield significant returns through improved
27 education, health, and economic outcomes; and
28 WHEREAS, Research from Stanford Institute for Economic
29 Policy Research indicates that states that make stronger investments
30 in early childhood supports and education systems are better
31 positioned to improve student outcomes and reduce achievement
32 and opportunity gaps over time; and
33 WHEREAS, California has made meaningful progress in
34 building a statewide home visiting infrastructure through
35 coordinated federal, state, and local investments and partnerships
36 among public health agencies, human services departments, First
37 5 leaders, community-based organizations, and health care
38 providers; and
39 WHEREAS, Local leaders across California counties have
40 demonstrated innovation and commitment in implementing and

1 expanding home visiting services, including culturally and
2 linguistically responsive approaches, thereby reaching more
3 families and strengthening communities; and

4 WHEREAS, Despite this progress, many eligible families in
5 California remain unserved, underscoring the importance of
6 continued coordination, investment, and system-building to ensure
7 equitable access to home visiting services early in a child’s life;
8 now, therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
10 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
11 week of April 20, 2026, to April 24, 2026, inclusive, as California
12 Home Visiting Week and encourages all Californians to recognize
13 and celebrate the contributions of home visiting programs and
14 professionals and the families they serve; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes the critical role of
16 home visiting programs in supporting pregnant people, infants,
17 and young children and promoting healthy development, family
18 well-being, and long-term societal benefits; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Legislature commends the leadership of state
20 agencies, local governments, community-based organizations, and
21 home visiting professionals who have advanced the implementation
22 and expansion of home visiting programs across California; and
23 be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages continued
25 collaboration and alignment across systems to strengthen and
26 expand access to evidence-based home visiting services so that
27 more families may receive support during pregnancy and the
28 earliest years of a child’s life; and be it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 171 (Celeste Rodriguez) – As Introduced April 6, 2026

SUBJECT: California Home Visiting Week.

SUMMARY: Proclaims the week of April 20, 2026, to April 24, 2026, inclusive, as California Home Visiting Week; and, encourages all Californians to recognize and celebrate the contributions of home visiting programs and professionals and the families they serve. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Home visiting programs are voluntary, evidence-based strategies that provide family-centered support to pregnant people and families with infants and young children, connecting them to health care, child development resources, and community supports.
- 2) Evidence-based home visiting models identified by the federal Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness (HomVEE) project have demonstrated positive outcomes, including improved maternal and child health, enhanced child development and school readiness, strengthened parenting practices, and reductions in child maltreatment.
- 3) In California, programs such as the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program and the California Home Visiting Program serve families across diverse communities, prioritizing those facing economic hardship and structural inequities, and have supported tens of thousands of families with young children.
- 4) Home visiting programs support families during pregnancy and the earliest years of life by promoting healthy prenatal behaviors, supporting positive birth outcomes, helping parents understand and respond to their child's developmental needs, and supporting their educational and career goals.
- 5) Home visiting programs strengthen protective relationships between caregivers and children, helping to buffer the effects of toxic stress and promote safe, stable, and nurturing environments.
- 6) Research from Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research indicates that states that make stronger investments in early childhood supports and education systems are better positioned to improve student outcomes and reduce achievement and opportunity gaps over time.
- 7) California has made meaningful progress in building a statewide home visiting infrastructure through coordinated federal, state, and local investments and partnerships among public health agencies, human services departments, First 5 leaders, community-based organizations, and health care providers.
- 8) Despite this progress, many eligible families in California remain unserved, underscoring the importance of continued coordination, investment, and system-building to ensure equitable access to home visiting services early in a child's life.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 172

Introduced by Assembly Member Macedo

April 7, 2026

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 172—Relative to World Irritable Bowel Syndrome Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 172, as introduced, Macedo. World Irritable Bowel Syndrome Day.

This measure would declare April 19, 2026, as World Irritable Bowel Syndrome Day in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a gastrointestinal
2 disorder of gut-brain interaction that is characterized by recurring
3 abdominal pain, bloating, and altered bowel movements. Although
4 many Americans suffer from individual symptoms, they do not
5 realize it is a medical condition called IBS and for this reason, it
6 often goes undiagnosed by physicians and patients; and

7 WHEREAS, The symptoms of IBS affect up to 15 percent of
8 the adult population, or just over 35,000,000 Americans. The
9 quality of life is significantly lower in people suffering from the
10 symptoms of IBS than in healthy people; and

11 WHEREAS, Although IBS has a considerable impact on
12 personal relationships and working practices, people with these
13 symptoms often suffer in silence because of their reluctance to
14 discuss their pain; and

1 WHEREAS, A number of California organizations, including
2 the IBS Patient Support Group, are committed to supporting people
3 suffering from the symptoms of IBS, including by raising public
4 awareness, discovering innovative therapies, and providing patient
5 educational materials; now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
7 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby declares April 19,
8 2026, as World Irritable Bowel Syndrome Day in California and
9 encourages all residents of the state to support and participate in
10 organizations, events, and activities that raise awareness about
11 IBS; and be it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 172 (Macedo) – As Introduced April 7, 2026

SUBJECT: World Irritable Bowel Syndrome Day.

SUMMARY: Proclaims April 19, 2026, as World Irritable Bowel Syndrome Day in California; and, encourages all residents of the state to support and participate in organizations, events, and activities that raise awareness about IBS. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a gastrointestinal disorder of gut-brain interaction that is characterized by recurring abdominal pain, bloating, and altered bowel movements.
- 2) Although many Americans suffer from individual symptoms, they do not realize it is a medical condition called IBS, and for this reason it often goes undiagnosed by physicians and patients.
- 3) The symptoms of IBS affect up to 15 percent of the adult population, or just over 35 million Americans. The quality of life is significantly lower in people suffering from the symptoms of IBS than in healthy people.
- 4) Although IBS has a considerable impact on personal relationships and working practices, people with these symptoms often suffer in silence because of their reluctance to discuss their pain.
- 5) A number of California organizations, including the IBS Patient Support Group, are committed to supporting people suffering from the symptoms of IBS, including by raising public awareness, discovering innovative therapies, and providing patient educational materials.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

House Resolution

No. 99

**Introduced by Assembly Members Soria and Hadwick
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aguiar-Curry, Alanis, Connolly,
Jeff Gonzalez, Irwin, and Ransom)**

March 26, 2026

House Resolution No. 99—Relative to California Agriculture Day.

1 WHEREAS, April 21, 2026, is designated as California
2 Agriculture Day, a day of celebration to commemorate agriculture’s
3 importance in our daily lives, its vital role in keeping Californians
4 nourished, and its role in keeping the state’s economy ranked as
5 the fourth largest in the world; and

6 WHEREAS, The theme of California Agriculture Day 2026 is
7 “California Leads,” highlighting the many ways California’s
8 agricultural sector leads the way, from innovative climate-smart
9 agricultural practices and the success of the Farm-to-School
10 Program to specialty crops and the inspiring contributions of female
11 farmers; and

12 WHEREAS, California women in agriculture outpace the nation,
13 making up 38 percent of producers and operating more farms than
14 in any other major agricultural state in the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, California celebrates 2026 as the International
16 Year of the Woman Farmer and the essential role women play in
17 every step of the food and farming system, stewarding more than
18 11 million acres of farmland and accelerating sustainability,
19 innovation, and food security for all; and

20 WHEREAS, For more than 60 consecutive years, California
21 has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing
22 more than 400 crop and livestock products, and accounting for

1 over one-third of vegetables and nearly three-quarters of the fruits
2 and nuts produced in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, California is the nation’s leader in agricultural
4 exports, shipping \$23.8 billion in food and agricultural
5 commodities around the world in 2024, which represents a 6.1
6 percent increase over the previous year; and

7 WHEREAS, California is the nation’s sole exporter of many
8 agricultural commodities, supplying 99 percent or more of the
9 nation’s exported almonds, artichokes, dates, figs, garlic, kiwifruit,
10 olives and olive oil, pistachios, prunes, raisins, table grapes,
11 tomatoes for processing, and walnuts; and

12 WHEREAS, California agriculture has provided strong
13 leadership in the adoption of climate smart practices to reduce
14 methane and other greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy
15 efficiency, save water, scale up soil health practices to sequester
16 carbon, and implement other solutions to climate change; and

17 WHEREAS, California’s organic production sales were \$11.8
18 billion in 2023, which is a 21.7 percent increase since 2019, organic
19 production encompasses 1.78 million acres in the state, and
20 California is the only state in the United States with a National
21 Organic Program authorized a state organic program; and

22 WHEREAS, California’s Farm-to-School Program serves as a
23 model for the nation, connecting California-grown foods with
24 school meal programs in 86 percent of California counties, with
25 the goal of cultivating equity, nurturing students, building climate
26 resilience, and creating scalable and sustainable changes in the
27 school food system; and

28 WHEREAS, Today’s agricultural industry offers over 200
29 challenging and rewarding career opportunities, from on-farm
30 cultivation to food science and engineering; and

31 WHEREAS, The inexhaustible efforts of millions of
32 farmworkers have contributed greatly to the success of the industry;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, California’s agricultural industry constantly seeks
35 to incorporate the latest scientific and technological production
36 and marketing techniques to meet the demands of changing
37 consumer needs and complex world markets; and

38 WHEREAS, Science, technology, and innovation have enabled
39 California agriculture to continually improve quality, safety, and
40 consumer product choice and drive advancements in organic

1 production, reduced water use, and more sustainable pest
2 management practices, including biological controls; and

3 WHEREAS, A broad approach to agricultural education is vital
4 to ensure that California’s farms and ranches continue to flourish;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, It is appropriate for all Californians to recognize
7 our farmers, ranchers, farmworkers, and others involved in
8 providing such a bounty to our nation and the entire world; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California,* That the
11 Assembly recognizes and honors all those who work in California
12 agriculture for their dedication and productivity by designating
13 Tuesday, April 21, 2026, as California Agriculture Day and by
14 observing March 24, 2026, as National Agriculture Day; and be
15 it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
HR 99 (Soria) – As Introduced March 26, 2026

SUBJECT: California Agriculture Day.

SUMMARY: Recognizes and honors all those who work in California agriculture for their dedication and productivity by designating April 21, 2026, as California Agriculture Day and by observing March 24, 2026, as National Agriculture Day. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) April 21, 2026, is designated as California Agriculture Day, a day of celebration to commemorate agriculture’s importance in our daily lives, its vital role in keeping Californians nourished, and its role in keeping the state’s economy ranked as the fourth largest in the world.
- 2) The theme of California Agriculture Day 2026 is “California Leads,” highlighting the many ways California’s agricultural sector leads the way, from innovative climate-smart agricultural practices and the success of the Farm-to-School Program to specialty crops and the inspiring contributions of female farmers.
- 3) California celebrates 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer and the essential role women play in every step of the food and farming system, stewarding more than 11 million acres of farmland and accelerating sustainability, innovation, and food security for all.
- 4) For more than 60 consecutive years, California has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing more than 400 crop and livestock products and accounting for over one-third of vegetables and nearly three-quarters of the fruits and nuts produced in the United States.
- 5) California is the nation’s leader in agricultural exports, shipping \$23.8 billion in food and agricultural commodities around the world in 2024, which represents a 6.1 percent increase over the previous year.
- 6) California is the nation’s sole exporter of many agricultural commodities, supplying 99 percent or more of the nation’s exported almonds, artichokes, dates, figs, garlic, kiwifruit, olives and olive oil, pistachios, prunes, raisins, table grapes, tomatoes for processing, and walnuts.
- 7) California’s organic production sales were \$11.8 billion in 2023, which is a 21.7 percent increase since 2019. Organic production encompasses 1.78 million acres in the state, and California is the only state in the United States with a National Organic Program authorized state organic program.
- 8) California’s Farm-to-School Program serves as a model for the nation, connecting California-grown foods with school meal programs in 86 percent of California counties, with the goal of

cultivating equity, nurturing students, building climate resilience, and creating scalable and sustainable changes in the school food system.

- 9) California's agricultural industry constantly seeks to incorporate the latest scientific and technological production and marketing techniques to meet the demands of changing consumer needs and complex world markets.
- 10) Science, technology, and innovation have enabled California agriculture to continually improve quality, safety, and consumer product choice, and drive advancements in organic production, reduced water use, and more sustainable pest management practices, including biological controls.
- 11) It is appropriate for all Californians to recognize our farmers, ranchers, farmworkers, and others involved in providing such a bounty to our nation and the entire world.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

House Resolution

No. 103

Introduced by Assembly Member Lowenthal

April 8, 2026

House Resolution No. 103—Relative to Cambodian Genocide Memorial Week.

1 WHEREAS, The Cambodian people have a long and rich
2 cultural heritage symbolized by the capital city Temple of Angkor
3 Wat, which flourished during the Khmer Empire from the 9th to
4 the 12th centuries and is considered one of the Wonders of the
5 Ancient World, that stands as a living icon of the endurance and
6 genius of all Cambodians throughout the world; and

7 WHEREAS, Early connections between the United States and
8 Cambodia began in the 1950s, when Cambodia sent bright and
9 talented college students to universities, including California State
10 Universities in Long Beach and Los Angeles, to study technical
11 trades, engineering, and agriculture with the assistance of the
12 United States Agency for International Development (USAID);
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The relationship between the United States and
15 Cambodia had been forged through educational and professional
16 exchange, and therefore in 1975, with the impending overthrow
17 of the government by the totalitarian Khmer Rouge regime, the
18 United States accepted over 4,000 Cambodian evacuees to ensure
19 their safety; and

20 WHEREAS, April 17, 2026, will mark the 51st anniversary of
21 the Khmer Rouge regime, led by Pol Pot. The Khmer Rouge seized
22 power, which led to the Cambodian Genocide; and

1 WHEREAS, Between April 17, 1975, and January 7, 1979, the
2 Khmer Rouge of Democratic Kampuchea, led by Pol Pot, General
3 Secretary of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, and other
4 members of the Standing Committee of the Central Committee of
5 the Communist Party of Kampuchea and their agents, committed
6 acts of genocide and other crimes against humanity; and

7 WHEREAS, The genocide and other crimes against humanity
8 committed against the people of Cambodia, including various
9 religious groups and ethnic minorities, during the Khmer Rouge
10 regime led to the deaths of over 1,700,000 Cambodians, which
11 was 21 percent of the nation's population; and

12 WHEREAS, The Khmer Rouge regime also sought to eliminate
13 all aspects of Cambodian culture by systematically killing those
14 with education, separating families, and destroying institutions
15 such as Buddhist temples, schools, libraries, dance, and music;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Countless victims have since come forward to tell
18 their stories of imprisonment, starvation, slavery, rape, and
19 systematic forced marriage; and

20 WHEREAS, After the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge regime
21 in 1979, over 140,000 Cambodians came to the United States as
22 refugees, a group of special humanitarian and foreign policy
23 concern to the United States because of the well-founded fear of
24 persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership
25 in a particular social group, or political opinion and thus in need
26 of protection in accordance with the United Nations' 1951
27 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees; and

28 WHEREAS, The State of California has the largest population
29 of Cambodians and the City of Long Beach is known around the
30 world as home to the largest Cambodian community outside of
31 Southeast Asia; and

32 WHEREAS, The Cambodian people have drawn from their
33 cultural history to rebuild their lives and communities through
34 participation in American politics on the local and national levels,
35 by establishing local and international businesses, by developing
36 new art forms and community organizations, and by raising a new
37 generation of Americans who promise to contribute to the future
38 of the State of California and the nation; and

39 WHEREAS, The Cambodian Genocide was a human tragedy
40 and must be remembered for the scale of violence and devastation

1 perpetrated against the people of Cambodia so that it does not
2 happen again, there or in any other country; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1994, the United States Congress passed the
4 Cambodian Genocide Justice Act, committing the American
5 government to the pursuit of justice for the victims of the genocide
6 and affirming the policy of the United States to bring members of
7 the Khmer Rouge to justice for their crimes against humanity; and

8 WHEREAS, The genocide and other crimes against humanity
9 did not succeed in destroying the Cambodian people or their
10 culture. In fact the culture and heritage of the Cambodian people
11 continues to this day through the accomplishments of Cambodians
12 and their descendants; and

13 WHEREAS, The suffering and loss of the Cambodian people
14 and their accomplishments and perseverance in reestablishing
15 families, communities, and enhancing the cultural and historical
16 diversity of our state and nation should be recognized and honored;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The Cambodian Genocide Memorial Week will
19 honor the survivors and their descendants for their courage and
20 contributions to our state and country. This week will serve as a
21 way to remember those who lost their lives in Cambodia and in
22 genocides around the world; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
24 Assembly hereby recognizes the week of April 17 to April 23,
25 2026, inclusive, as Cambodian Genocide Memorial Week, and
26 calls upon all Californians to observe the week by participating in
27 appropriate activities and programs; and be it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
HR 103 (Lowenthal) – As Introduced April 8, 2026

SUBJECT: Cambodian Genocide Memorial Week.

SUMMARY: Recognizes the week of April 17 to April 23, 2026, inclusive, as Cambodian Genocide Memorial Week; and, calls upon all Californians to observe the week by participating in appropriate activities and programs. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The Cambodian people have a long and rich cultural heritage symbolized by the capital city temple of Angkor Wat, which flourished during the Khmer Empire from the 9th to the 12th centuries and is considered one of the Wonders of the Ancient World, that stands as a living icon of the endurance and genius of all Cambodians throughout the world.
- 2) Early connections between the United States and Cambodia began in the 1950s, when Cambodia sent bright and talented college students to universities, including California State Universities in Long Beach and Los Angeles, to study technical trades, engineering, and agriculture with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development.
- 3) The relationship between the United States and Cambodia had been forged through educational and professional exchange, and therefore in 1975, with the impending overthrow of the government by the totalitarian Khmer Rouge regime, the United States accepted over 4,000 Cambodian evacuees to ensure their safety.
- 4) April 17, 2026, will mark both the 51st anniversary of the Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot, seizing control of Cambodia and the beginning of the Cambodian Genocide.
- 5) The State of California has the largest population of Cambodians, and the City of Long Beach is known around the world as home to the largest Cambodian community outside of Southeast Asia.
- 6) The Cambodian people have drawn from their cultural history to rebuild their lives and communities through participation in American politics on the local and national levels, by establishing local and international businesses, by developing new art forms and community organizations, and by raising a new generation of Americans who promise to contribute to the future of the State of California and the nation.
- 7) The Cambodian Genocide was a human tragedy and must be remembered for the scale of violence and devastation perpetrated against the people of Cambodia so that it does not happen again, there or in any other country.
- 8) The Cambodian Genocide Memorial Week will honor the survivors and their descendants for their courage and contributions to our state and country. This week will serve as a way to remember those who lost their lives in Cambodia and in genocides around the world.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

House Resolution

No. 104

Introduced by Assembly Member Lowenthal

April 8, 2026

House Resolution No. 104—Relative to Khmer New Year.

1 WHEREAS, The Cambodian people have a long and rich
2 cultural heritage symbolized by Angkor Wat, the temple city,
3 which flourished during the Khmer Empire from the 9th to the
4 12th centuries and was considered one of the Wonders of the
5 Ancient World, and now stands as a living icon of the endurance
6 and genius of all Cambodians throughout the world; and

7 WHEREAS, Khmer New Year, or Cambodian New Year, also
8 known as Chaul Chnam Thmey, literally meaning “Enter the New
9 Year,” also known as Moha Sangkranta, literally meaning “Great
10 Sankranti,” or Sangkranta, is the traditional celebration of the solar
11 New Year in Cambodia; and

12 WHEREAS, Moha Sangkranta or Sangkranta, derived from
13 Sanskrit Sañkrānti, is the name of the first day of the New Year
14 celebration. It marks the end of the year and the beginning of a
15 new one. People dress up in new clothes, light candles, and burn
16 incense sticks at shrines, where the members of each family offer
17 thanks for the Buddha’s teachings by bowing or kneeling three
18 times in front of his image. For good luck, people wash their face
19 with holy water in the morning, their chests at noon, and their feet
20 in the evening before they go to bed; and

21 WHEREAS, Veareak Vanabat is the name of the second day of
22 the New Year celebration. People contribute charity to the less
23 fortunate by helping individuals experiencing homelessness and

1 low-income families, among others. Families attend a dedication
2 ceremony for their ancestors at monasteries; and

3 WHEREAS, Veareak Laeung Sak is the name of the third day
4 of the New Year celebration. Buddhists wash the Buddha statues
5 and their elders with water scented with flower petals. Bathing the
6 Buddha is a symbolic practice to wash bad actions away. This
7 ritualistic act is called Srang Preah. It is also thought to be a kind
8 deed that will bring longevity, good luck, happiness, and prosperity
9 in life. By washing their grandparents and parents, the children
10 can obtain from them best wishes, blessings, and good pieces of
11 advice for the rest of the year; and

12 WHEREAS, In temples, people erect a sand hillock on temple
13 grounds. They mound up a big, pointed hill of sand or dome in the
14 center to represent Valuka Chaitya, the stupa (shrine) at the
15 Tāvātimsa (heaven) where they believe the Buddha's hair and
16 diadem are kept. The big stupa is surrounded by four small ones,
17 which represent the stupas of the Buddha's favorite disciples:
18 Sariputra, Moggallana, Ananda, and Maha Kassapa; and

19 WHEREAS, Cambodia is home to a variety of traditional games
20 played to transform the days into memorable occasions. These
21 games are similar to those played in Manipur, a state in
22 northeastern India. Throughout the Khmer New Year, street corners
23 often are crowded with friends and families enjoying a break from
24 routine, filling their free time with dancing and popular games.
25 Typically, Khmer games help maintain one's mental and physical
26 dexterity, and develop good rapport among members of the
27 community; and

28 WHEREAS, The Khmer New Year coincides with the traditional
29 solar New Year in several parts of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri
30 Lanka, Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand; and

31 WHEREAS, A three-day public holiday marks the New Year,
32 which usually starts on April 13 or April 14, at the end of the
33 harvest season when farmers enjoy the fruits of their labor before
34 the rainy season begins; and

35 WHEREAS, Khmers living abroad may choose to celebrate
36 during a weekend rather than specifically April 13 through April
37 16; and

38 WHEREAS, The State of California has a large population of
39 Cambodians and the City of Long Beach is known around the

1 world as home to the largest Cambodian community outside of
2 Southeast Asia; and

3 WHEREAS, The Cambodian people have contributed to
4 communities by participating in American politics, by establishing
5 local and international businesses, by developing new art forms
6 and community organizations through their rich cultural heritage,
7 and by raising a new generation of Americans with promise to
8 advance the future of the State of California and the nation; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*
11 *Assembly hereby recognizes April 14, 2026, to April 16, 2026,*
12 *inclusive, as Khmer New Year, and calls upon all Californians to*
13 *observe the New Year by participating in appropriate activities*
14 *and programs; and be it further*

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

O

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
HR 104 (Lowenthal) – As Introduced April 8, 2026

SUBJECT: Khmer New Year.

SUMMARY: Recognizes April 14 to April 16, 2026, inclusive, as Khmer New Year; and, calls upon all Californians to observe the New Year by participating in appropriate activities and programs. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The Cambodian people have a long and rich cultural heritage symbolized by Angkor Wat, the temple city, which flourished during the Khmer Empire from the 9th to the 12th centuries and was considered one of the Wonders of the Ancient World, and now stands as a living icon of the endurance and genius of all Cambodians throughout the world.
- 2) Khmer New Year, or Cambodian New Year, also known as Chaul Chnam Thmey, literally meaning “Enter the New Year,” also known as Moha Sangkranta, literally meaning “Great Sankranti,” or Sangkranta, is the traditional celebration of the solar new year in Cambodia.
- 3) Moha Sangkranta or Sangkranta, derived from Sanskrit Saṅkrānti, is the name of the first day of the New Year celebration. It marks the end of the year and the beginning of a new one. For good luck, people wash their face with holy water in the morning, their chests at noon, and their feet in the evening before they go to bed.
- 4) Veareak Vanabat is the name of the second day of the New Year celebration. People contribute charity to the less fortunate by helping individuals experiencing homelessness and low-income families, among others. Families attend a dedication ceremony for their ancestors at monasteries.
- 5) Veareak Laeung Sak is the name of the third day of the New Year celebration. Buddhists wash the Buddha statues and their elders with water scented with flower petals. Bathing the Buddha is a symbolic practice to wash bad actions away. This ritualistic act is called Srang Preah.
- 6) In temples, people erect a sand hillock on temple grounds. They mound up a big, pointed hill of sand or dome in the center to represent Valuka Chaitya, the stupa (shrine) at the Tāvatiṃsa (heaven) where they believe the Buddha’s hair and diadem are kept.
- 7) The Khmer New Year coincides with the traditional solar new year in several parts of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand.
- 8) A three-day public holiday marks the New Year, which usually starts on April 13 or April 14, at the end of the harvest season when farmers enjoy the fruits of their labor before the rainy season begins.
- 9) Khmers living abroad may choose to celebrate during a weekend rather than specifically April 13 through April 16.

- 10) The State of California has a large population of Cambodians and the City of Long Beach is known around the world as home to the largest Cambodian community outside of Southeast Asia.
- 11) The Cambodian people have contributed to communities by participating in American politics, by establishing local and international businesses, by developing new art forms and community organizations through their rich cultural heritage, and by raising a new generation of Americans with promise to advance the future of the State of California and the nation.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

Introduced by Senator Ochoa Bogh
(Coauthor: Assembly Member DeMaio)

February 20, 2026

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 132—Relative to California STEAM Robotics Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 132, as introduced, Ochoa Bogh. California STEAM Robotics Day.

This measure would proclaim March 22, 2026, as California STEAM Robotics Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, American pupils deserve access to a high-quality
2 education in science, technology, engineering, arts, and
3 mathematics (STEAM) for their future, California’s future, and
4 the nation’s future; and

5 WHEREAS, There is a strong need to recognize California’s
6 STEAM leadership in technological advancement, innovation
7 technology, and robotics because it is vital in promoting the 21st
8 century skills of teamwork, problem solving, and technological
9 literacy; and

10 WHEREAS, Vocational education serves as an integral
11 educational pathway, providing valuable STEAM skills in trades
12 such as construction, automotive, information technology, and
13 health care; and

14 WHEREAS, Career and Technical Educational (CTE) programs
15 and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) provide high

1 quality STEAM learning, teaching industry-level topics such as
2 the engineering design process; and

3 WHEREAS, Increased investments in STEAM and robotics
4 ensure that California’s pupils have more opportunities to secure
5 jobs in the fields of engineering, biotechnology, computer
6 programming, artificial intelligence, animatronics, and robotics in
7 California; and

8 WHEREAS, Hands-on learning environments, such as
9 makerspaces, provide pupils with access to cutting-edge tools,
10 technology, and training that foster creativity, problem solving,
11 and technical skill development; and

12 WHEREAS, Immersive STEAM learning spaces are designed
13 to engage pupils of all backgrounds, ages, and skill levels in
14 career-focused, experiential education aligned with high-demand
15 industries; and

16 WHEREAS, Experiential STEAM education plays a critical
17 role in preparing California’s pupils for careers in advanced
18 manufacturing, engineering technology, and creative industries;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science
21 and Technology) is the world’s leading youth-serving nonprofit
22 organization advancing STEAM education; and

23 WHEREAS, The mission of FIRST is to motivate young people
24 to be science and technology leaders and innovators by engaging
25 them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science,
26 engineering, and technology skills that inspire innovation, build
27 confidence, and prepare young people for life; and

28 WHEREAS, The vision of FIRST is to transform our culture
29 by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated
30 and where pupils dream of becoming science and technology
31 leaders; and

32 WHEREAS, The month of March coincides with multiple
33 robotics competitions held by FIRST; now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
35 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims March 22,
36 2026, as California STEAM Robotics Day to observe and celebrate
37 the advancements and innovations made in California and for the
38 pursuit of STEAM careers; and be it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
SCR 132 (Ochoa Bogh) – As Introduced February 20, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 35-0

SUBJECT: California STEAM Robotics Day.

SUMMARY: Proclaims March 22, 2026, as California STEAM Robotics Day to observe and celebrate the advancements and innovations made in California and for the pursuit of STEAM careers. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) American pupils deserve access to a high-quality education in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) for their future, California’s future, and the nation’s future.
- 2) There is a strong need to recognize California’s STEAM leadership in technological advancement, innovation technology, and robotics because it is vital in promoting the 21st century skills of teamwork, problem solving, and technological literacy.
- 3) Increased investments in STEAM and robotics ensure that California’s pupils have more opportunities to secure jobs in the fields of engineering, biotechnology, computer programming, artificial intelligence, animatronics, and robotics in California.
- 4) Immersive STEAM learning spaces are designed to engage pupils of all backgrounds, ages, and skill levels in career-focused, experiential education aligned with high-demand industries.
- 5) For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) is the world’s leading youth-serving nonprofit advancing STEAM education. The vision of FIRST is to transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders.
- 6) The month of March coincides with multiple robotics competitions held by FIRST.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

Introduced by Senator Wahab

(Coauthors: Senators Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Caballero, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McNerney, Menjivar, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Weber Pierson, and Wiener)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Alanis, Ávila Farías, Bains, Boerner, Calderon, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Garcia, Kalra, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Pacheco, Pellerin, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Stefani, Wallis, Wicks, Wilson, and Zbur)

March 9, 2026

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 141—Relative to Women’s Equal Pay Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 141, as introduced, Wahab. Women’s Equal Pay Day.

This measure would recognize March 26, 2026, as Women’s Equal Pay Day in California, in recognition of the need to eliminate the gender gap in earnings by women and to promote policies to ensure equal pay for all.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, More than 60 years after the passage of the federal
- 2 Equal Pay Act of 1963, women, especially women of color,
- 3 continue to suffer the consequences of unequal pay; and
- 4 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census Bureau,
- 5 women who work full time year round make less than \$0.81 for
- 6 every dollar a man is paid; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
2 Labor, the median salary for women in 2024 was \$57,520, while
3 men earned a median of salary of \$71,090; and

4 WHEREAS, The wage gap for Black, Latina, and Native
5 American women is under \$0.66 for every dollar White,
6 non-Hispanic men make; and

7 WHEREAS, Black and Hispanic women have the lowest median
8 salary earnings, with Hispanic women earning an average of
9 \$46,380 and Black women earning an average of \$51,660; and

10 WHEREAS, Four out of 10 women experience gender
11 discrimination and are much more likely to work a part-time job
12 compared to men; and

13 WHEREAS, Nearly 4 in 10 mothers are the primary
14 breadwinners in their households, and nearly two-thirds of mothers
15 are the primary or significant earners, making pay equity critical
16 to the financial security of their families; and

17 WHEREAS, A lifetime of lower pay means women have less
18 income to save for retirement and less income counted in a social
19 security or pension benefit formula; and

20 WHEREAS, Women continue to be underrepresented in the
21 fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and
22 business, as well as in managerial positions, and are
23 overrepresented in teaching, assistant, and childcare occupations;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Fair pay in California would strengthen the security
26 of individuals and families today, regardless of education or
27 socioeconomic status, while enhancing our statewide economy;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, March 26 symbolizes the day in 2026 when the
30 wages paid to women catch up to the wages paid to males from
31 the previous year nationwide; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
33 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature proclaims March 26,
34 2026, as Women’s Equal Pay Day in California, in recognition of
35 the need to eliminate the gender gap in earnings by women and to
36 promote policies to ensure equal pay for all; and be it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
SCR 141 (Wahab) – As Introduced March 9, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 37-0

SUBJECT: Women’s Equal Pay Day.

SUMMARY: Proclaims March 26, 2026, as Women’s Equal Pay Day in California, in recognition of the need to eliminate the gender gap in earnings by women and to promote policies to ensure equal pay for all. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) More than 60 years after the passage of the federal Equal Pay Act of 1963, women, especially women of color, continue to suffer the consequences of unequal pay.
- 2) According to the United States Census Bureau, women who work full time year round make less than \$0.81 for every dollar a man is paid. And, according to the United States Department of Labor, the median salary for women in 2024 was \$57,520, while men earned a median of salary of \$71,090.
- 3) The wage gap for Black, Latina, and Native American women is under \$0.66 for every dollar White, non-Hispanic men make.
- 4) Four out of 10 women experience gender discrimination and are much more likely to work a part-time job compared to men. Nearly 4 in 10 mothers are the primary breadwinners in their households, making pay equity critical to the financial security of their families.
- 5) Fair pay in California would strengthen the security of individuals and families today, regardless of education or socioeconomic status, while enhancing our statewide economy.
- 6) March 26 symbolizes the day in 2026 when the wages paid to women catch up to the wages paid to males from the previous year nationwide.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

**Introduced by Senator Allen
(Coauthor: Senator Pérez)**

March 18, 2026

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 147—Relative to Arts Education Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 147, as introduced, Allen. Arts Education Month.

This measure would proclaim March 2026 as Arts Education Month and urge all residents to become interested in and give full support to quality arts education programs for children and youth.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The arts are a necessary and required component
- 2 of every California pupil’s education to develop well-rounded,
- 3 lifelong learners who contribute to the prosperity and quality of
- 4 life for local and global communities; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Arts education is crucial to achieving a state
- 6 educational policy devoted to the teaching of essential academic
- 7 skills and lifelong learning capacities to truly prepare all children
- 8 for success in school and life, regardless of gender, age, race,
- 9 ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration
- 10 status, language, economic status, physical ability, or learning
- 11 ability; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Research demonstrates that arts learning in early
- 13 childhood and elementary grades supports brain development,
- 14 language acquisition, motor skills, and social-emotional growth,
- 15 laying a critical foundation for academic success across all
- 16 disciplines; and

1 WHEREAS, Arts education prepares pupils for the 21st century
2 workforce by developing critical thinking, creativity, collaboration,
3 communication, and citizenship, furthers academic goals,
4 complements learning in other core subjects, improves pupil
5 engagement and attendance, strengthens family and community
6 engagement, and enhances a positive school culture and climate;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Arts education uniquely communicates the ideas
9 and emotions of the human spirit and connects us to our history,
10 heritage, and culture by fostering appreciation, affirmation, and
11 revitalization of one’s culture and understanding of other cultures,
12 developing emotional intelligence, social-emotional learning,
13 critical thinking, effective communication, collaborative skills,
14 and creativity; and

15 WHEREAS, Arts education, including dance, media arts, music,
16 theater, and visual arts, develops engaged, creative, expressive,
17 responsive, empathetic, and artistically literate communities; it
18 fosters joy, promotes tolerance, and cultivates decency in society;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Arts education nurtures creativity and expression
21 and is a valuable means to attain long-term employment across
22 diverse industries. Creativity is critical to our future economies
23 and essential for people to stay relevant and thrive in our
24 fast-evolving workforce, according to the World Economic
25 Forum’s Future of Jobs Report; and

26 WHEREAS, Arts education strengthens California’s creative
27 economy by cultivating future artists, designers, media
28 professionals, educators, and innovators while supporting local
29 cultural institutions, small businesses, and community vitality; and

30 WHEREAS, The arts are a recognized part of a quality
31 education, and the University of California and the California State
32 University have instituted a policy that includes arts education as
33 a college preparatory subject for all high school pupils wishing to
34 enter the state’s institutions of higher education; and

35 WHEREAS, California voters overwhelmingly voted in favor
36 of Proposition 28, The Arts and Music in Schools—Funding
37 Guarantee and Accountability Act, mandating dedicated funding
38 and equitable access to arts education for all California public
39 school pupils; and

1 WHEREAS, Every pupil has a right to a well-rounded education
2 that includes the arts and the benefits it brings, as mandated in
3 Sections 51210 and 51220 of the Education Code, which state, in
4 part, “[t]he adopted course of study” shall include instruction or
5 offer courses in “[v]isual and performing arts, including instruction
6 in the subjects of dance, music, theater, and visual arts, aimed at
7 the development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative
8 expression”; and

9 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education adopted the
10 California Arts Standards for Public Schools, Prekindergarten
11 Through Grade Twelve in 2019 and the California Arts Education
12 Framework for Public Schools, Transitional Kindergarten Through
13 Grade Twelve in 2020, which provide a foundation for the
14 development of artistic competencies and the cultivation of a
15 lifelong appreciation and understanding of the arts. The California
16 Arts Standards reflect the fundamental belief that every child
17 should have equitable access to high-quality, standards-based arts
18 education to thrive and participate in modern society; and

19 WHEREAS, Many national and state professional arts education
20 associations hold celebrations in March, giving California schools
21 a unique opportunity to focus on the value of the arts for all pupils,
22 foster cross-cultural understanding, provide recognition to the
23 state’s outstanding young artists, and enhance public support for
24 this essential part of the curriculum; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
26 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of
27 March 2026 as Arts Education Month and urges all residents to
28 become interested in and give full support to quality arts education
29 programs for children and youth; and be it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
SCR 147 (Allen) – As Introduced March 18, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 37-0

SUBJECT: Arts Education Month.

SUMMARY: Proclaims March 2026 as Arts Education Month; and, urges all residents to become interested in, and give full support to, quality arts education programs for children and youth. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The arts are a necessary and required component of every California pupil's education to develop well-rounded, lifelong learners who contribute to the prosperity and quality of life for local and global communities.
- 2) Arts education is crucial to achieving a state educational policy devoted to the teaching of essential academic skills and lifelong learning capacities to truly prepare all children for success in school and life, regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, language, economic status, physical ability, or learning ability.
- 3) The arts are a recognized part of a quality education, and the University of California and the California State University have instituted a policy that includes arts education as a college preparatory subject for all high school pupils wishing to enter the state's institutions of higher education.
- 4) California voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of Proposition 28: The Arts and Music in Schools - Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act, mandating dedicated funding and equitable access to arts education for all California public school pupils.
- 5) Many national and state professional arts education associations hold celebrations in March, giving California schools a unique opportunity to focus on the value of the arts for all pupils, foster cross-cultural understanding, provide recognition to the state's outstanding young artists, and enhance public support for this essential part of the curriculum.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0041
(916) 319-2041
FAX (916) 319-2141



April 10, 2026

The Honorable Blanca Pacheco
Chair, Assembly Committee on Rules

RE: AB 1847 (Harabedian) – Request for Urgency Clause

Dear Chair Pacheco,

AB 1847 extends the Mortgage Forbearance Act to provide an additional two years of relief for homeowners impacted by the Eaton and Palisades wildfires who remain displaced and financially strained due to prolonged recovery timelines. An urgency clause is necessary to ensure these protections do not lapse, as many affected families are still awaiting insurance payouts and rebuilding their homes, and would otherwise face immediate risk of foreclosure and financial hardship.

Sincerely,

Assemblymember John Harabedian

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0057
(916) 319-2057
FAX (916) 319-2157



April 9, 2026

The Honorable Blanca Pacheco
Chair, Assembly Rules Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6250
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1932 Urgency Clause Request

Dear Assemblymember Pacheco:

I am writing to request that AB 1932 be added an urgency clause. In order to ensure the continued operation and expansion of community-based emergency response programs that provide alternatives to law enforcement in mental health, substance use, and other crisis situations, and to prevent gaps in critical services that could result in harm, or loss of life, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sade Elhawary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SADE ELHAWARY
Assemblymember, District 57

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0013
(916) 319-2013
FAX (916) 319-2113

DISTRICT OFFICE
4643 QUAIL LAKES DRIVE, SUITE 200
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COMMITTEES
CHAIR, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AGRICULTURE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
TRANSPORTATION

JOINT COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR, JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON FAIRS ALLOCATION
AND CLASSIFICATION

April 8, 2026

Honorable Blanca Pacheco
Chair, Assembly Rules
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6250
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Pacheco:

We respectfully request an urgency clause be added to AB 2032, which is a bill that will provide immediate support to water agencies by expediting onerous and lengthy permitting processes across state agencies so they can respond quickly and effectively to the ongoing golden mussel crisis.

First detected in California in October 2024, golden mussels are an invasive species known for spreading rapidly and causing significant harm to water infrastructure, water quality, and aquatic ecosystem. Like quagga and zebra mussels, golden mussels attach to water infrastructure in dense colonies that clog pumps, pipelines, and conveyance systems. They also alter the ecology of lakes and rivers and can severely impact fisheries and the overall ecosystem. Unlike previous invasive mussels, golden mussels can survive in wider range of environmental conditions, posing an even greater threat to water infrastructure statewide. The Delta has seen these impacts first-hand including golden mussels latching on to flood gates, water infrastructure, and boats. The financial impacts of invasive mussel species are hard to quantify because they are far reaching. AB 2032 would help combat the spread of golden mussels by equipping our local water agencies with the necessary tools to expedite their response to prevent, mitigate, control, and eradicate golden mussels.

If you have any questions or need further background information, please reach out to my Legislative Director, Allie Umemoto, allie.umemoto@asm.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhodesia Ransom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Assembly Member Rhodesia Ransom
Assembly District 13

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0020
(916) 319-2020

DISTRICT OFFICE
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COMMITTEES
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ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, AND
TOURISM
BUDGET
INSURANCE
PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5 ON
STATE ADMINISTRATION

April 6, 2026

The Honorable Blanca Pacheco
Chair, Assembly Rules Committee
1021 O St., Suite 6150
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Pacheco,

I write to respectfully request to add an urgency clause to AB 2465 (Ortega), which will prohibit businesses that own or invest in private detention facilities or that contract with an agency that engages in or furthers immigration enforcement activities from receiving taxpayer-funded, grants, loans, tax credits, or other subsidies from the State of California.

An urgency clause is necessary to allow the Franchise Tax Board and other state departments proper time to update relevant forms and eligibility requirements.

For any questions, please contact my Legislative Director, Stephanie Gerstle Esparza, at Stephanie.GerstleEsparza@asm.ca.gov.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Ortega", with a stylized flourish at the end.

LIZ ORTEGA
Assemblymember, 20th District

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STATE CAPITOL

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Assembly
California Legislature



CHIEF COUNSEL

NICHOLAS LIEDTKE

DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

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COMMITTEE SECRETARIES

CINDY MORANTE
SERGIO HERNANDEZ ALCANTARA

April 8, 2026

Hon. Blanca Pacheco
Chair, Assembly Committee on Rules
1021 O Street, Suite 4510
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Pacheco,

On behalf of my colleagues on the Assembly Judiciary Committee I am writing to respectfully request permission to add an urgency clause to Assembly Bill (AB) 2783 (Committee on Judiciary), related to court reporters.

One of the primary goals of the bill is to extend the sunset date for a remote court reporter pilot program, originally enacted in AB 3013 (Maienschein) Chap. 250, Stats. 2024. Because the pilot program's authorizing statute is slated to sunset on January 1, 2027, AB 2783 was originally drafted as a normal statute without an urgency clause. However, the authorization to operate the pilot program expires on July 1, 2026. The courts have indicated that, this bill notwithstanding, they will not continue to operate the pilot without explicit legal authority to do so. Accordingly, AB 2783 needs to take effect as soon as possible.

In order to meet the July 1, 2026 deadline I am seeking to add an urgency clause to AB 2783. I respectfully request that the Rules Committee approve the urgency clause so that it can be adopted at the bill's hearing the in Assembly Judiciary Committee on April 14, 2026.

Regards,

ASH KALRA
Chair, Assembly Committee on Judiciary

House Resolution

No. 97

**Introduced by Assembly Members Schultz and Harabedian
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Caloza and
Mark González)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alanis, Davies, Garcia, Haney,
Krell, Macedo, Michelle Rodriguez, Solache, and Wallis)**

March 24, 2026

House Resolution No. 97—Relative to the Armenian Genocide.

1 WHEREAS, Armenians have resided in the Armenian Highlands
2 for approximately four millennia, and have a long and rich history
3 in the region, including the establishment of many kingdoms, and
4 despite Armenians’ historic presence, stewardship, and autonomy
5 in the region, Turkish rulers of the Ottoman Empire and the
6 Republic of Turkey subjected Armenians to severe and unjust
7 persecution and brutality, including wholesale massacres beginning
8 in the 1890s; and
9 WHEREAS, The Armenian nation was subjected to a systematic
10 and premeditated genocide officially beginning on April 24, 1915,
11 at the hands of the Young Turk Government of the Ottoman Empire
12 from 1915 to 1919, inclusive, and continued at the hands of the
13 Kemalist Movement of Turkey from 1920 to 1923, inclusive,
14 whereby over 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children
15 were slaughtered or marched to their deaths in an effort to
16 annihilate the Armenian nation in the first genocide of modern
17 times, while thousands of surviving Armenian women and children
18 were forcibly converted and Islamized, and hundreds of thousands
19 more were subjected to ethnic cleansing during the period of the
20 modern Republic of Turkey from 1924 to 1937, inclusive; and

99

1 WHEREAS, During the genocides of the Christians living in
2 the Ottoman Empire and surrounding regions, which occurred
3 during the first half of the 20th century, 1.5 million men, women,
4 and children of Armenian descent, and hundreds of thousands of
5 Assyrians, Greeks, and other Christians, lost their lives at the hands
6 of the Ottoman Turkish Empire and the Republic of Turkey,
7 constituting one of the most atrocious violations of human rights
8 in the history of the world; and

9 WHEREAS, These crimes against humanity also had the
10 consequence of permanently removing all traces of the Armenians
11 and other targeted people from their historic homelands of more
12 than four millennia and enriching the perpetrators with the lands
13 and other property of the victims of these crimes, including the
14 usurpation of several thousand churches; and

15 WHEREAS, Between 1918 and 1920, the Ottoman Turkish
16 Army supported the newly established Republic of Azerbaijan in
17 displacing and massacring thousands of Armenians in Baku,
18 Shushi, and Nakhichevan, highlighting the Ottoman Turkish
19 Empire's goal of erasing Armenians from their own territories and
20 that of neighboring states' territories; and

21 WHEREAS, In response to the genocide and at the behest of
22 President Woodrow Wilson and the United States Department of
23 State, the Near East Relief organization was founded and became
24 the first congressionally sanctioned American philanthropic effort
25 created exclusively to provide humanitarian assistance and rescue
26 to the Armenian nation and other Christian minorities from
27 annihilation, who went on to survive and thrive outside of their
28 ancestral homeland all over the world and specifically in this state;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Near East Relief succeeded, with the active
31 participation of the citizens from this state, in delivering \$117
32 million in assistance, and saving more than one million refugees,
33 including 132,000 orphans, between 1915 and 1930, by delivering
34 food, clothing, and materials for shelter, setting up refugee camps,
35 clinics, hospitals, and orphanages; and

36 WHEREAS, The Armenian nation survived the genocide despite
37 the attempt by the Ottoman Empire to exterminate it; and

38 WHEREAS, Adolf Hitler, in persuading army commanders that
39 the merciless persecution and killing of Jews, Poles, and other

1 people would bring no retribution, declared, “Who, after all, speaks
2 today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”; and

3 WHEREAS, On November 4, 1918, immediately after the
4 collapse of the Young Turk regime and before the founding of the
5 Republic of Turkey by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk in 1923, the
6 Ottoman Parliament considered a motion on the crimes committed
7 by the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP) stating: “A
8 population of one million people guilty of nothing except belonging
9 to the Armenian nation were massacred and exterminated,
10 including even women and children.” The Minister of Interior at
11 the time, Fethi Bey, responded by telling the Parliament: “It is the
12 intention of the government to cure every single injustice done up
13 until now, as far as the means allow, to make possible the return
14 to their homes of those sent into exile, and to compensate for their
15 material loss as far as possible”; and

16 WHEREAS, On August 1, 1926, in an interview published in
17 the Los Angeles Examiner, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk admitted:
18 “These left-overs from the former Young Turk Party, who should
19 have been made to account for the lives of millions of our Christian
20 subjects who were ruthlessly driven en masse, from their homes
21 and massacred, have been restive under the Republican rule. They
22 have hitherto lived on plunder, robbery and bribery and become
23 inimical to any idea or suggestion to enlist in useful labor and earn
24 their living by the honest sweat of their brow”; and

25 WHEREAS, The Parliamentary Investigative Committee
26 proceeded to collect relevant documents describing the actions of
27 those responsible for the Armenian mass killings and turned them
28 over to the Turkish Military Tribunal. CUP’s leading figures were
29 found guilty of massacring Armenians and hanged or given lengthy
30 prison sentences. The Turkish Military Tribunal requested that
31 Germany extradite to Turkey the masterminds of the massacres
32 who had fled the country. After Germany’s refusal, they were tried
33 in absentia and sentenced to death; and

34 WHEREAS, Unlike other people and governments that have
35 admitted and denounced the abuses and crimes of predecessor
36 regimes, and despite the Turkish government’s earlier admissions
37 and the overwhelming proof of genocidal intent, the Republic of
38 Turkey inexplicably and adamantly has denied the occurrence of
39 the crimes against humanity committed by the Ottoman and Young

1 Turk rulers for many years, and continues to do so a full century
2 since the first crimes constituting genocide occurred; and

3 WHEREAS, Those denials compound the grief of the few
4 remaining survivors and deprive the surviving Armenian nation
5 of its individual and collective ancestral lands, property, cultural
6 heritage, financial assets, and population growth; and

7 WHEREAS, The Republic of Turkey has escalated its
8 international campaign of Armenian Genocide denial and increased
9 its pressure on the small but growing movement in Turkey
10 acknowledging the Armenian Genocide and seeking justice for
11 this systematic campaign of destruction of millions of Armenians
12 and other Christians upon their biblical-era homelands; and

13 WHEREAS, Those citizens of Turkey, both Armenian and
14 non-Armenian, who continue to speak the truth about the Armenian
15 Genocide, such as assassinated human rights activist and journalist
16 Hrant Dink, continue to be silenced by violent means; and

17 WHEREAS, There is continued concern about the welfare of
18 Christians in the Republic of Turkey, their right to worship and
19 practice freely, and the legal status and condition of thousands of
20 ancient Armenian churches, monasteries, cemeteries, and other
21 historical and cultural structures, sites, and antiquities in the
22 Republic of Turkey; and

23 WHEREAS, The United States is on record as having officially
24 recognized the Armenian Genocide in the United States
25 government's May 28, 1951, written statement to the International
26 Court of Justice regarding the Reservations to the Convention on
27 the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, through
28 President Ronald Reagan's April 22, 1981, Proclamation No. 4838,
29 and by congressional legislation, including House Joint Resolution
30 148 adopted on April 9, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247
31 adopted on September 12, 1984; and

32 WHEREAS, Prior to the Convention on the Prevention and
33 Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the United States had a
34 record of seeking just and constructive means to address the
35 consequences of the Ottoman Empire's intentional destruction of
36 the Armenian people, including through United States Senate
37 Concurrent Resolution 12 adopted on February 9, 1916, United
38 States Senate Resolution 359 adopted on May 11, 1920, and
39 President Woodrow Wilson's November 22, 1920, decision titled,
40 "The Frontier between Armenia and Turkey," which was issued

1 as a binding arbitral award, yet has not been enforced to this date
2 despite its legally binding status; and

3 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama entered office “calling
4 for Turkey’s acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide” and on
5 April 24, 2013, and similarly on April 24, 2014, the president
6 further stated, “A full, frank, and just acknowledgment of the facts
7 is in all of our interests. Peoples and nations grow stronger, and
8 build a more just and tolerant future, by acknowledging and
9 reckoning with painful elements of the past”; and

10 WHEREAS, President Joe Biden, on April 24, 2021, became
11 the first United States President to officially recognize the
12 Armenian Genocide, stating, “The American people honor all those
13 Armenians who perished in the genocide that began 106 years ago
14 today... We honor their story. We see that pain. We affirm the
15 history. We do this not to cast blame but to ensure that what
16 happened is never repeated”; and

17 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest Armenian
18 American population in the United States, and Armenians living
19 in California have enriched our state through their leadership and
20 contribution in business, agriculture, academia, government, and
21 the arts, many of whom have family members who experienced
22 firsthand the horror and evil of the Armenian Genocide and its
23 ongoing denial; and

24 WHEREAS, Every person should be made aware and educated
25 about the Armenian Genocide and other crimes against humanity
26 to prevent them from occurring in the 21st century; and

27 WHEREAS, The State of California has been at the forefront
28 of encouraging and promoting a curriculum relating to human
29 rights and genocide in order to empower future generations to
30 prevent the recurrence of genocide; and

31 WHEREAS, April 24, 1915, is globally observed and recognized
32 as the commencement of the Armenian Genocide; and

33 WHEREAS, Armenians in California and throughout the world
34 have not been provided with justice for the crimes perpetrated
35 against the Armenian nation despite the fact that over a century
36 has passed since the crimes were first committed; and

37 WHEREAS, To this day, the Armenian people continue to face
38 a threat to their very existence in their ancestral lands at the hands
39 of Turkey and Azerbaijan, seen during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh
40 war with the perpetration of horrific war crimes and the ethnic

1 cleansing of the region’s indigenous Armenian population, in
2 addition to Azerbaijan’s invasion and occupation of Armenia’s
3 sovereign territory in September 2022, and the blockade of the
4 Lachin Corridor that left 120,000 Armenians without access to
5 food, fuel, medicine, and other humanitarian goods for over three
6 months; and

7 WHEREAS, Following the illegal blockade, the Armenians of
8 Artsakh endured a vicious, large-scale assault by the Aliyev regime
9 of Azerbaijan in September 2023 that resulted in the forced
10 displacement of more than 100,000 Armenians from Artsakh; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That April
13 24, 2026, be recognized as “State of California Day of
14 Commemoration of the 111th Anniversary of the Armenian
15 Genocide of 1915–1923”; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Assembly commends its conscientious
17 educators who teach about human rights and genocide and intends
18 for them, through this resolution, to continue to enhance their
19 efforts to educate students at all levels about the experience of the
20 Armenians and other crimes against humanity; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Assembly hereby commends the
22 extraordinary service that was delivered by Near East Relief to the
23 survivors of the Armenian Genocide, including thousands of direct
24 beneficiaries of American philanthropy who are the parents,
25 grandparents, and great-grandparents of many Californian
26 Armenians, and pledges its intent, through this resolution, to
27 working with community groups, nonprofit organizations, citizens,
28 state personnel, and the community at large to host statewide
29 educational and cultural events; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Assembly deplores the persistent, ongoing
31 efforts by any person, in this country or abroad, to deny the
32 historical fact of the Armenian Genocide; and be it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
HR 97 (Schultz) – As Introduced March 24, 2026

SUBJECT: The Armenian Genocide.

SUMMARY: Recognizes April 24, 2026, as “State of California Day of Commemoration of the 111th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923;” and, commends educators who teach about human rights and genocide and intends for them to continue to enhance their efforts to educate students at all levels about the experience of the Armenians and other crimes against humanity. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Armenians have resided in the Armenian Highlands for approximately four millennia, and have a long and rich history in the region, including the establishment of many kingdoms, and despite Armenians’ historic presence, stewardship, and autonomy in the region, Turkish rulers of the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey subjected Armenians to severe and unjust persecution and brutality, including wholesale massacres beginning in the 1890s.
- 2) The Armenian nation was subjected to a systematic and premeditated genocide officially beginning on April 24, 1915, at the hands of the Young Turk Government of the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1919, inclusive, and continued at the hands of the Kemalist Movement of Turkey from 1920 to 1923, inclusive, whereby over 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children were slaughtered or marched to their deaths in an effort to annihilate the Armenian nation in the first genocide of modern times, while thousands of surviving Armenian women and children were forcibly converted and Islamized, and hundreds of thousands more were subjected to ethnic cleansing during the period of the modern Republic of Turkey from 1924 to 1937.
- 3) California is home to the largest Armenian American population in the United States, and Armenians living in California have enriched our state through their leadership and contribution in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts, many of whom have family members who experienced firsthand the horror and evil of the Armenian Genocide and its ongoing denial.
- 4) Every person should be made aware and educated about the Armenian Genocide and other crimes against humanity. The State of California has been at the forefront of encouraging and promoting a curriculum relating to human rights and genocide in order to empower future generations to prevent the recurrence of genocide.
- 5) April 24, 1915, is globally observed and recognized as the commencement of the Armenian Genocide.
- 6) Armenians in California and throughout the world have not been provided with justice for the crimes perpetrated against the Armenian nation despite the fact that over a century has passed since the crimes were first committed.
- 7) To this day, the Armenian people continue to face a threat to their very existence in their ancestral lands at the hands of Turkey and Azerbaijan, seen during the 2020 Nagorno-

Karabakh war with the perpetration of horrific war crimes and the ethnic cleansing of the region's indigenous Armenian population, in addition to Azerbaijan's invasion and occupation of Armenia's sovereign territory in September 2022, and the ongoing blockade of the Lachin Corridor that has left 120,000 Armenians without access to food, fuel, medicine, and other humanitarian goods for over three months.

- 8) Following the illegal blockade, the Armenians of Artsakh endured a vicious, large-scale assault by the Aliyev regime of Azerbaijan in September 2023 that resulted in the forced displacement of more than 100,000 Armenians from Artsakh.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

Assembly of Turkish American Associations
Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California (ATASC-ATAMLA)
Orange County Turkish American Association
Turkish American Security Foundation (TASFO)
Turkish Consulate General

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800



ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

Date: April 07 /2026

To: Assembly Members

Subject: Bill Title: Relative to the Armenian Genocide-HR-97. (Rejection)

Dear Assembly Members,

HR-97 contains erroneous claims about the Ottoman Armenians, Armenian Republic, and peripheral international affairs going back to World War I.

In politics, truth is helpless when assaulted by lavish campaign contributions and votes. As Mark Hanna famously said, "There are two things that are important in politics. The first is money, and I can't remember what the second one is."

The hatred of Turks for an alleged but unproven Armenian genocide is the fuel for these conjoined twins: donation and political campaign.

The Members of the California Senate should be presented with certain facts, which shall constitute the grounds of my objection to HR-97:

1. The particular Conditional and Temporarily Relocation and Resettlement Law of May 27, 1915, passed by the Congress of the Ottoman Empire aimed to protect the Armenian minorities under the wartime conditions of World War I while combating the belligerent Armenian political factions that were cooperating with the Russian enemy in The Ottoman Empire's eastern front.

2 No court of law has ever affirmed an Armenian genocide. It has been disputed by the Malta investigations, European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations multiple times.

3. No person or nation has ever even been accused of an Armenian genocide in a court of law. Armenia has refused to take their allegation for adjudication to the International Court of Justice for 74 successive years under Article IX of the Genocide Convention.

4. The Holocaust is the gold standard for proving genocide. Over 10,000 pages of documentary evidence and live testimony subject to cross-examination were submitted to the post-World War II International Military Tribunal sitting at Nuremberg. Due process was honored. The verdict was rendered by judges, not politicians. What have Armenians produced? Not a crumb of evidence introduced in a court of law and tested by the fires of cross-examination—the greatest engine ever invented for the discovery of truth.

Unfortunately, though, big lies with political and financial backing endure. The Protocols of the Elders of Zion are still taken as gospel in many countries in the Middle East. The "Armenian genocide lie" persists because of the rich backing of lobbyists and their bought political toadies. It would be contemptible to see if honest Senators of California would stoop so low to buy into these lies.

Such could be expected of despotic rulers, but not of the honest Senators of California who purport to celebrate justice.

Why? Because SR-87 and any such future ones are mere attempts to distort the historical realities of the Late Ottoman Era. Therefore, they are politically, historically, ethically and legally incorrect.

Resolutions such as HR-97 that are devoid of historical realities, aiming to bend the confines of the international law without due process. Any resolution that does not rely on any specific legal proof should be rejected by the California Senate.

Furthermore, California Senators should refrain from assuming the roles of the judges, juries, prosecutors and executioners by taking stands on historically and legally contentious issues.

Passing resolutions that incriminate one arbitrarily accused side in the absence of the rulings of competent international courts amounts to nothing but issuing an arbitrary Bill of Attainder, which is prohibited as illegal under the US Constitution.

Adjudicating matters of genocide and war crimes is deemed to be a serious undertaking under the international law and is reserved for competent international courts such as International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC)



ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

Therefore, I strongly recommend and encourage you to vote "Nay" to HR-97 and all similar future resolutions. Turkish-Americans of California certainly at risk of criminally targeted, vilified or ostracized or be forced to endure the trauma incited by such bills.

Sincerely,

Erkan Demiragci

President Elect.

Assembly of Turkish American Associations

Irvine, CA 92606



ATASC – ATAMLA

2953 Seahorse Ave, Ventura, CA 93001

A charitable 501c (3) organization

April 7, 2026

Subject: Opposition to HR-97 – Concern Regarding Misleading and Divisive Framing

Dear Honorable Members of the California Assembly,

On behalf of **ATASC - ATAMLA**, we respectfully express our **opposition to California Assembly Resolution 97 (CA AR97) (HR 97)**

ATASC - ATAMLA is guided by the principle of Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk: “Peace at home, peace in the world.” This principle compels us to speak when public actions risk undermining community harmony and mutual understanding.

While we deeply respect the importance of remembrance and compassion for all parties who suffered during times of war, we, as Turkish Americans, are concerned that AR-97 frames a complex historical matter through a limited and potentially misleading legislative narrative that does not fully reflect the broader historical, legal, and academic context in which these issues continue to be examined.

We are also concerned about the real-world impact such framing can have on our community. Many Turkish Americans have experienced increased instances of bias, discrimination, and social exclusion, while our children have faced bullying and harassment in educational settings, often linked to the narratives reflected in measures such as AR-97.

Public policy carries weight far beyond symbolism. When historical matters are framed in a one-sided way through legislative action, it can unintentionally shape public perception in a manner that does not reflect the full scope of scholarly discourse and may contribute to misunderstanding rather than informed awareness.

California is home to more than 40,000 Turkish Americans, who are proud, contributing members of this state. Our community values coexistence, mutual respect, and constructive engagement. However, measures such as AR-97 risk creating an environment in which a segment of the population feels mischaracterized or excluded, rather than included in the shared narrative of this state.

At a time when global and regional efforts are increasingly focused on dialogue, normalization, and reconciliation, we respectfully encourage California to lead by example by promoting inclusive, forward-looking initiatives that bring communities together, rather than reinforcing divisions rooted in one-sided unresolved historical interpretations.

We respectfully submit that the role of legislative bodies should be to foster unity, support balanced dialogue, and encourage educational engagement, rather than adopt positions that may unintentionally amplify division or misunderstanding.

For these reasons, and in alignment with our mission and guiding principles, we respectfully urge your office to oppose (vote NO on) AR-97 (HR-97).

We remain committed to working collaboratively with policymakers and community leaders to promote peace, understanding, and unity across all communities in California.

We are also including other legal historical, social, political objections summarized by Atatürk World Platform for your additional considerations.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of all the factors

Respectfully Yours,

Vega Sankur

Dr. Vega Sankur
ATASC-ATAMLA Founding President

Burcu Tansu

Burcu Tansu
ATASC-ATAMLA Co-President

Encl: AWP consideration



A Chapter of the Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California (ATASC)

Tuesday, April 10, 2026

To: The Honorable Assembly Members

Subject: OCTAA Request for Fair Consideration and NO Vote on HR-97

I am writing on behalf of the Orange County Turkish American Association (OCTAA), a proud chapter of the Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California (ATASC) and a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. OCTAA represents Turkish Americans living in Orange County and has long been committed to promoting peace, diversity, cultural understanding, and bringing communities together. We respectfully urge that Turkish American perspectives be fairly considered as the Senate reviews SR-87 and similar resolutions.

First, allegations regarding the events of 1915 remain subjects of ongoing historical and legal debate. These matters are best resolved by qualified historians and legal bodies, not political resolutions.

Second, the Turkish American community in Orange County, like many Turkish American communities across California, is smaller and has fewer organizational resources than other communities. As a result, our perspective is often marginalized during the legislative process. We respectfully request equal opportunity to testify before committees, submit written statements, and participate in legislative forums to present our historical perspective and community concerns.

Third, it is important to recognize that Türkiye and Armenia have recently taken significant steps toward normalizing their relations. These efforts include restoring transportation links, expanding trade opportunities, and encouraging diplomatic engagement. For example, Turkish Airlines began direct flights between Istanbul and Yerevan on March 11, 2026, reflecting a positive step toward regional cooperation and dialogue. Additional efforts, such as reopening transportation corridors, demonstrate a mutual interest in building a more stable and cooperative future. As engagement and normalization advance between Türkiye and

Armenia, we hope California will adopt approaches that promote understanding rather than division.

Fourth, Turkish Americans are proud Californians who work hard, pay taxes, and contribute to the state's economy, culture, and civic life. Here in Orange County, OCTAA members actively volunteer, organize cultural events, support local education, and participate in civic life alongside neighbors from every background. We simply ask to be treated with the same fairness and respect afforded to all communities.

California should foster dialogue, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence among all of its residents. We respectfully request that Turkish Americans be given equal opportunities to present our perspective, ensuring that legislative decisions are balanced and fully informed.

We urge you to take decisive action to ensure these resolutions foster positive community relations and uphold fairness, dialogue, and equal treatment for all Californians.

Respectfully,



Berna Yorulmaz

President, Orange County Turkish American Association (OCTAA)

On Behalf of the Board of Directors

OCTAA | 8583 Irvine Center Dr. #375, Irvine, CA 92618 | Email: president@octaa.org | www.octaa.org | Instagram: @octaa_us

OCTAA is a chapter of the Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California (ATASC) and a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation.



TURKISH AMERICAN SECURITY FOUNDATION

Stay United Against Local and Global Terrorism

PO Box 722
Levittown NY, 11756
914.774-6325
tasfostrongandsteady@aol.com

April 8, 2026

TASFO RESPONSE TO BILL NO. HR 97

Dear Representatives of the California State Assembly:

Before the Battle of Manzikert (August 26, 1071), the Byzantine administration imposed religious and administrative pressures particularly on the Gregorian Armenian population, attempting to bring them under the authority of the Orthodox Church, which created significant discontent. This situation facilitated the participation of some Armenian elements in the army of Seljuk Emperor Alp Arslan and led them to view the Seljuks as a more tolerant alternative in comparison to the Byzantine. Indeed, there is no historical evidence indicating that Alp Arslan pursued a systematic policy of oppression against Armenians during or after his arrival in Anatolia. Quite the contrary, the Seljuk administration in fact adopted a more flexible governing approach aimed at establishing lasting control while largely preserving the religious and social life of the local population. As a continuation of this approach, during the reign of Malik Shah I, a more just and protective administration was implemented towards the Armenian people; their churches and religious institutions were not interfered with, and Armenians were given space to get involved within local administrations. For this reason, in some Armenian chronicles he was referred to as the “Father of the Armenians,” reflecting the relative sense of trust and stability fostered under Seljuk rule. As a successor state to the Seljuk Empire, the Ottoman State inherited the same government tradition.

Following the Committee of Union and Progress’ (CUP) ascent to power as the ruling political authority of the Ottoman Empire, and its temporary political rapprochement with the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) after the 1908 Constitutional period, differences between the CUP’s centralization policies and the ARF’s demands for political reforms and autonomy in Eastern Anatolia—perceived by Ottoman Turkish authorities as a challenge to state’s sovereignty and territorial integrity—led to a rapid deterioration of relations. After 1913, ties between CUP and ARF were completely severed, and during World War I, the ARF aligned itself with Tsarist Russia, contributing to the formation of Armenian volunteer units within the Russian army on the Caucasus front. Under this cooperation, armed Armenian groups operated in coordination with Russian forces, carrying out attacks on Ottoman positions, providing logistical support, conducting intelligence activities, and organizing local uprisings and armed actions in certain regions. During the same period, serious clashes occurred between armed Armenian bands and the local Muslim population across parts of Eastern Anatolia, resulting in mutual attacks causing civilian casualties. Prominent Armenian figures such as Andranik Ozanian and Drastamat Kanayan emerged as

leading armed commanders. Particularly in and around Van, according to some contemporary sources, approximately 20,000 Muslim civilians lost their lives due to Armenian led massacres.

These developments were perceived by the Ottoman administration as a serious security threat. In this context, the Ottoman government implemented the policy of temporary relocation and resettlement (also known as “Tehcir”) in 1915 as a wartime measure aimed at securing the rear lines, controlling internal uprisings and armed activities concurrent with the Russian advance, and relocating the Armenian population—especially those living in Russian-occupied or front-line regions—to southern areas. This self-defense measure was understandably implemented under the extraordinary wartime conditions and was framed under the empire’s military and administrative security concerns.

During the periods of World War I and the subsequent Turkish War of Independence, segments of Armenian, Greek (Rum), and Assyrian (Syriac) groups engaged in various forms of cooperation with external powers and armed activities to subvert the Ottoman State within the broader context of wartime instability and competing national aspirations. Elements associated with the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) aligned with the Russian Empire, forming volunteer units, conducting coordinated military operations, and supporting Russian advances, while local armed groups carried out attacks, intelligence operations, and uprisings in Eastern Anatolia. Similarly, certain Assyrian groups, particularly under the leadership of Mar Shimun XIX Benyamin, cooperated with Russian forces in the Hakkari–Urmia region, participating in armed resistance and providing logistical and strategic support. In parallel, during the Greek occupation of Western Anatolia following the Greek landing at Smyrna in 1919, some local Greek (Rum) armed groups collaborated with the Hellenic Army by offering intelligence, guidance, and direct participation in military operations. These developments, which did not uniformly represent entire communities but rather specific factions, contributed to widespread intercommunal violence, mutual reprisals, and civilian casualties, intensifying the overall security crisis faced by the Ottoman administration during this turbulent period.

The events of 1918 in Azerbaijan, particularly those known as the March Days, have been recognized by some institutions—including references at the state level such as in New Jersey—as mass atrocities committed against Azerbaijani Muslims. During this period, armed Armenian groups, including elements associated with the Dashnaktsutyun (aka ARF), acted in coordination with Bolshevik forces in the Southern Caucasus. In cities such as Baku and surrounding regions, these forces were involved in widespread violence, resulting in the deaths of thousands of Muslim civilians and the destruction of entire settlements. These actions unfolded within the broader context of the collapse of the Russian Empire and the ensuing power struggle in the region, where Bolshevik and nationalist forces sought to consolidate control. In response to the escalating violence and the targeting of Muslim populations, the “Ottoman Islamic Army of the Caucasus” was established and deployed to Azerbaijan in 1918, with the stated objective of restoring order and protecting the local indigenous population. The arrival of Ottoman forces contributed to the end of Bolshevik-Dashnak (ARF) control in Baku and marked a turning point in the regional conflict.

The American investigative mission led by US General James G. Harbord in 1919 conducted extensive on-the-ground examinations not only in Anatolia but also across the Caucasus and Azerbaijan, engaging with local inhabitants, military authorities, and representatives of various communities to assess the realities of the period from multiple perspectives. The resulting “Harbord Report” makes clear that the violent events cannot be reduced

to a one-sided narrative of destruction, but rather reflect a complex environment of mutual violence, armed conflict, and significant civilian losses among both Muslim and Armenian populations under the chaotic conditions of war. The report explicitly acknowledges not only Armenian suffering but also the attacks and massacres endured by Muslim communities, underscoring the multi-dimensional nature of the conflict.

Similarly, the observations of US General Mark L. Bristol, who served as the U.S. High Commissioner in Istanbul, reinforce this conclusion. Bristol's reports indicate that in the eastern provinces, violence was not unilateral, and that armed Armenian elements were also involved in attacks against Muslim civilians, leading to cycles of retaliation and ever-escalating intercommunal conflict. Admiral Bristol further warned that propaganda efforts risked distorting the realities on the ground and emphasized the need to interpret these events within the broader context of wartime disorder, weakened authority, and ethnic tensions. Taken together, these authoritative American assessments demonstrate that the events across Anatolia and the wider region cannot be accurately characterized through simplistic or one-sided interpretations, but instead require a balanced, evidence-based, and context-driven evaluation grounded in the full complexity of historical conditions.

An aid agency called Near East Relief, with the active participation of citizens of this state, provided \$117 million in aid between 1915 and 1930, supporting more than one million refugees, including 132,000 orphans. This agency supplied food, clothing, and shelter, and established refugee camps, clinics, hospitals, and orphanages. During this period, the Ottoman State permitted and cooperated to the extent possible with American relief organizations, thereby contributing to the implementation of humanitarian assistance efforts, as evidenced in progress reports of Near East Relief.

Therefore, the events in question should not be characterized as a one-sided policy of destruction directed against the Armenian civilian population, but rather should be evaluated within the framework of security threats arising under the conditions of World War I. In this context, the Ottoman State conducted operations primarily against armed Armenian groups operating behind the front lines and in coordination with the Russian occupation forces, including those associated with Dashnaktsutyun (ARF), and this struggle was only directed at insurgent and armed elements rather than the entire Armenian civilian population.

Despite all these developments, the Armenian community continued to exist, as evidenced by the reports of Near East Relief and The League of Nations. Hence, the historical process should be understood not as a unilateral act of destruction, but within the broader context of a complex, multi-dimensional environment shaped by war, mutual conflict, and intercommunal violence.

The particular statement attributed to Adolf Hitler — “Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?” — has not been definitively proven by any official or authenticated document. The quoted statement is based solely on claims that it was made during a confidential speech in 1939. Given that this remark does not appear consistently across different versions of the relevant records of the same speech, it remains disputed among historians and should therefore be regarded as an unverified or unsubstantiated claim rather than a confirmed historical statement.

Although certain discussions took place in the Ottoman Parliament after 1918 regarding wartime measures implemented against Armenians, presenting isolated statements and figures from these debates as definitive and

uncontested facts is misleading. In particular, claims that “one million Armenians were massacred” cannot be established as a clear, consistent, and officially recorded parliamentary position; rather, such figures uncorroborated by historical evidence emerged within a broader context of political discourse, varying sources, and the highly charged atmosphere of the period. Likewise, the interview attributed to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in the 1926 Los Angeles Examiner remains highly contested in terms of authenticity and reliability, and many scholars question its validity. Presenting such disputed materials as verified and binding historical evidence does not align with sound scholarly or legislative standards. Therefore, drawing firm conclusions based on selective and context-stripped references reflects a reductionist and potentially misleading legislative approach that overlooks the complex and multi-dimensional nature of the historical record.

The proceedings conducted by the Parliamentary Investigative Commission demonstrate that the Ottoman State did not pursue a systematic policy of annihilation; rather, wartime incidents were examined and individuals were assessed on a case-by-case basis and referred to military courts where necessary. The trials concerning the period of the Committee of Union and Progress cannot be construed as an admission of a state-directed crime. Instead, they should be viewed as a state’s efforts to address violations that may have arisen under extraordinary wartime conditions.

The temporary relocation and resettlement policy implemented against a certain portion of the Ottoman Armenian minorities should likewise be construed as a security measure implemented during World War I in response to the Russian invasion and armed activities of Armenian volunteer units behind the front lines, rather than as a plan aimed at the destruction of the civilian Armenian population. In contrast, the assassinations carried out against Ottoman pashas (generals) and state officials in the post-war period were not acts of lawful justice carried out by any state authority, but rather organized acts of political violence and terrorism carried out by elements of the Armenian diaspora. Accordingly, portraying these historical events as evidence of a state’s premeditated war crime disregards both the legal processes of the time and the complex, multi-dimensional realities of the wartime environment.

Claims that the Republic of Türkiye is conducting a campaign of “denial” misrepresent Türkiye’s balanced position and rely on a one-sided interpretation of a highly complex historical process. Türkiye does not deny history; rather, it maintains that the events should be evaluated within the context of World War I, characterized by mutual conflict, armed uprisings, and the activities of groups such as Dashnaktsutyun and Hunchakian Party, some of which operated in coordination with Russian forces. From that perspective, the events do not constitute a unilateral policy of destruction but rather reflect a complex wartime environment in which both Muslim and Armenian populations suffered significant losses. Türkiye’s approach is therefore not one of pressure or suppression, but of advocating for a comprehensive, objective, and evidence-based examination of the historical record. Characterizing this position as a “denial campaign” disregards the legitimate calls of the Turkish Government for a balanced historical analysis and instead reflects a highly politicized and reductionist interpretation of the past.

Claims that differing views in Türkiye are systematically silenced through violence reflect a generalized and reductionist interpretation that does not align with the broader reality. Journalist Hrant Dink consistently advocated for dialogue and mutual understanding between Turks and Armenians, emphasizing that this issue should be resolved directly between the two peoples rather than through political intervention by third

countries—particularly the United States. Dink’s latter assassination was a criminal act planned and carried out by certain individuals and networks - not an action planned or endorsed by the Turkish State. The incident was subject to judicial proceedings and was properly adjudicated to hold accountable the individuals responsible. Attributing such a tragic and isolated act to the Turkish State not only contradicts legal realities but also undermines efforts towards reconciliation and constructive dialogue. Therefore, framing this incident as evidence of systematic suppression in Türkiye is neither objective nor reflective of the complex societal and legal context.

The rights and institutional presence of Christian minorities in Türkiye—particularly that of the Armenian community—should not be overlooked. The Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul continues to operate freely, while foundations such as the Surp Pırgiç Armenian Hospital Foundation, Getronagan Armenian High School Foundation, and Esayan Armenian High School Foundation function within established legal and property rights frameworks. In the field of education, long-standing institutions such as the Getronagan Armenian High School, Esayan Armenian High School, and Pangaltı Mkhitarian Armenian School continue to provide education. In media and cultural life, publications such as Jamanak Newspaper and Agos Newspaper contribute to the preservation of the Armenian language and identity. Furthermore, important religious and cultural heritage sites have been restored and maintained, including the Akdamar Church and the reconstructed Surp Giragos Church, both of which are open for use and visitation. These concrete examples demonstrate that the Armenian community in Türkiye continues to sustain its religious freedoms, educational institutions, foundations, and cultural identity at an institutional level. Accordingly, claims suggesting systematic restrictions on the welfare, religious freedom, or cultural preservation of Christians in Türkiye do not align with the existing legal and institutional realities and instead reflect a one-sided interpretation.

The 1981 proclamation issued by Ronald Reagan, along with the congressional resolutions of 1975 and 1984 and the legal submission made by the United States to the International Court of Justice in 1951, cannot be regarded as legally binding or definitive recognition of “genocide” under international law. Such statements are inherently political in nature and do not carry the authority of judicial determination, nor are they supported by any binding ruling of a duly appointed, competent international court. In particular, the 1951 submission represents merely a legal opinion rather than a judicial verdict, and presenting it otherwise is clearly misleading. Furthermore, differing legal and scholarly interpretations—also reflected in the views of certain legal advisors of the period—underscore that the characterization of these events remains subject to ongoing academic and legal debate rather than settled legal consensus. Therefore, portraying these references as conclusive or as an official recognition is inconsistent with both the principles of international law and the complex, multi-dimensional nature of the historical record, and only serves to politicize an issue that requires objective and balanced examination.

Approaches that focus solely on historical accusations overlook the constructive steps taken by Türkiye toward normalization with Armenia. Türkiye has consistently advocated for the establishment of diplomatic relations and the opening of borders without preconditions, while also proposing that the claims regarding the so-called “Armenian genocide” be examined through a joint commission composed of Turkish, Armenian, and international historians, to ensure a scientific and objective assessment rather than a politicized one. In this context, the Zurich Protocols, signed with the support of the international community, represented a significant step toward establishing diplomatic ties and promoting regional stability. Additionally, Türkiye has supported people-to-people engagement, cultural exchanges, and confidence-building measures aimed at fostering mutual understanding. From this perspective, Türkiye’s approach has been a constructive one based on dialogue,

cooperation, and forward-looking engagement rather than confrontation. Therefore, framing the issue solely through historical accusations disregards these constructive initiatives and presents an incomplete and one-sided interpretation of Türkiye's role in seeking a peaceful and cooperative resolution.

Likewise, statements made by Barack Obama should be understood as political statements within their political parameters which do not negate the constructive and transparent initiatives undertaken by Türkiye. Long before such statements, Türkiye had already been advocating consistently that the claims regarding the so-called Armenian genocide be examined through an international joint commission composed not only of Turkish and Armenian historians, but also of scholars from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Russia. This proposal reflects Türkiye's position that complex historical issues should be addressed through objective, scholarly research and multilateral academic cooperation rather than mere political declarations. By inviting multiple countries and independent historians into such a process, Türkiye has demonstrated its commitment to transparency, fairness, and evidence-based evaluation. Therefore, emphasizing political statements while disregarding these inclusive and constructive initiatives presents an incomplete and imbalanced perspective that fails to reflect the full scope of efforts aimed at a fair and objective understanding of history.

The characterization of the events in question as "genocide" by Fmr. President Joe Biden does not constitute a legally binding determination, as it has not been adjudicated by a competent international judicial authority such as the International Court of Justice or any other authorized tribunal. In the absence of such a judicial process and ruling, this designation remains a political statement rather than a definitive legal conclusion under the law. Accordingly, President Biden's statements should rather be construed as an unconstitutional Bill of Attainder issued within the context of prevailing political dynamics and interests of the time, rather than as the outcome of an objective and impartial legal adjudication with proper due process.

While California is home to a significant Armenian-American population, the state's demographic and socio-economic landscape is not defined by a single community. California is a highly diverse and multicultural environment where numerous ethnic groups coexist, including a vibrant Turkish-American community. Turkish Americans contribute actively across multiple sectors, including business, entrepreneurship, craftsmanship, academia, and the arts, playing a meaningful role in both local and broader economic activity. Therefore, portraying California as primarily centered around one ethnic group overlooks its broader multicultural character and the contributions of other communities, resulting in an incomplete and unbalanced representation of the state's social fabric.

Educational and awareness efforts concerning historical events must be grounded in objectivity, balance, and academic rigor. Otherwise, narratives based on one-sided interpretations risk reinforcing bias rather than fostering understanding and dialogue. Presenting contested historical issues from a single perspective, without consideration of differing scholarly viewpoints, may result in generations being shaped by incomplete and guided narratives. Such an approach does not serve justice or genuine awareness; instead, it may contribute to division, prejudice, and mutual distrust between communities. A sound and responsible approach to history should promote critical thinking, embrace plural perspectives, and ensure that complex events are examined in a comprehensive, evidence-based, and balanced manner.

During the occupation of Azerbaijani territories in and around Nagorno-Karabakh between 1992 and 1993, the events known as the Khojaly Massacre drew significant international attention, as hundreds of Azerbaijani civilians were killed, constituting a major humanitarian tragedy. This event has been recognized by a number of U.S. states—including Texas, New Jersey, and Georgia—as a massacre or, in some cases, as an act of genocide. These developments highlight the limitations of viewing regional conflicts through a one-sided narrative. Furthermore, the conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh in 2020 and 2022 emerged within the context of long-standing tensions and mutual military escalations on the ground. During this period, some Armenian groups continued to characterize Karabakh as “Armenian land,” while Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev publicly stated that Armenians willing to accept Azerbaijan’s sovereignty could remain and live in the territories restored to Azerbaijani control. Taken together, these developments demonstrate that the Karabakh issue is also a complex and multi-dimensional matter that cannot be adequately understood through unilateral narratives alone, but requires a comprehensive assessment of its historical, political, and humanitarian dimensions.

It is essential to question why developments dating back to the 1890s have not been comprehensively addressed, particularly considering that Armenian uprisings began in the late 19th century. The failure to evaluate these events within their full historical context — including the conflicts and mutual hostilities of that period — has led to the presentation of an incomplete and one-sided narrative. Furthermore, the consistency of claims suggesting continued mass killings up to 1923 warrants critical examination, especially in light of the establishment of an Armenian state in 1918 within territories formerly belonging to Azerbaijan under Soviet influence.

The Turkish-American Security Foundation (TASFO) affirms its commitment to demonstrating, through United States archival records, that the allegations of a so-called Armenian genocide are not substantiated by verifiable historical evidence. TASFO further declares that it will continue to present these findings across all appropriate platforms. The acceptance of such claims as established facts by certain U.S. policymakers, despite the absence of confirmatory, corroborating evidence in U.S. archives, reflects a one-sided approach driven by political considerations and interests rather than objective historical analysis.

In that regard, the Turkish-American Security Foundation (TASFO) formally proposes to the California State Legislature that this bill be referred to a committee for further examination. Establishing a joint commission in which both sides are properly represented, would ensure a transparent, balanced, and academically grounded discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph F. Ozonur

President, Turkish-American Security Foundation (TASFO)



The Consulate General of the Republic of Türkiye in Los Angeles

California State Assembly
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 24, 2026

Honorable Assembly Members,

I write to express concern regarding AR 97, a resolution that once again spreads misinformation and encourages hate speech while politicizing a historical controversy. While remains unchanged from the version introduced last year, the resolution yet again presents a biased, false and one-sided narrative of deeply contested historical circumstances, treating them as if they are matters settled by law or historical consensus.

The proposed resolution is not only unconstructive, but also built upon historical and legal discrepancies.

As an example, the infamous “Hitler quote” is a mere fabrication the authenticity of which was rejected by the Nuremberg Tribunals.

The quote attributed to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founding father of our Republic, is also completely fabricated. There is neither a record of an interview given to the Los Angeles Examiner in 1926 by Atatürk nor any account in the name of the mysterious Swiss journalist Hilderband, about whom Swiss officials found no trace of him ever existing.

To understand what exactly happened in 1915, one has to examine the events that happened before, during and in the aftermath of this tumultuous time in their entirety. Ottoman Empire was a multi-ethnic, multi-religious society reflective of the empires of the time. During its disintegration, the Turks, Armenians and other nationalities of the Empire suffered immensely. Around 5 million Turks and other Muslims were massacred during that calamitous period, and were forced to flee their lands, as the historical records documented.

During World War I, armed Armenian groups revolted against the Ottoman government in eastern Anatolia by collaborating with the invading Russian armies and other foreign forces. Armenian militias staged attacks on Muslim civilians and the Ottoman army by engaging in acts of sabotage on the eastern front. They even targeted local Armenians who were not supportive of their cause. As a result of the heavy casualties inflicted by the attacks of Armenian militias and gangs, the Ottoman government had to enact the Temporary Law on Relocation on 27 May 1915, that foresaw the relocation of the population living in war zones to the southern parts of the Empire as a necessary security measure. The said measure was not a deportation, but a temporary relocation to the resettlement sites within the borders of the Empire. Moreover, those resettled were granted the right to return to their homes after the end of the War.

On the legal side, international legal authorities have consistently refrained from designating the events of 1915 as genocide. The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), in *Perinçek v. Switzerland (2015)*,

explicitly ruled that the allegation remains a matter of historical and political debate rather than an established fact. No competent international court has issued a verdict labeling these events as genocide.

These facts clearly show that the proposed resolution is filled with historical and legal discrepancies. Facts, on the other hand, shows that radicalism and hatred fomented by a distorted historical narrative only alienates and sidelines Turkish-American community in California.

Unfortunately, we witnessed and continue to witness in California the painful consequences of fueling extremist groups. Turkish Americans have at times been subjected to hostility, vandalism, and threats; whereas, four Turkish diplomats, whose sole purpose was to maintain peaceful and constructive dialogue between nations, were brutally assassinated on U.S. soil.

In 2023 September, during an event held at the University of South California, our Ambassador and Consul General in Los Angeles together with other Turkish officials became the subject of a hate crime, perpetrated by a group of radical Armenians who are yet to be brought to justice.

Resolutions such as AR 97 do not advance reconciliation, promote dialogue or align with the fundamentals of the American community. On the contrary, they risk inflaming divisions within American communities, noting that Turkish and Armenian Americans, both are integral to the nation's social and cultural fabric. Politically motivated resolutions like this only serve to encouraging radical elements who constantly oppose the peace efforts between two nations and to use every platform in California to pursue a hostile agenda against my country.

President Trump's statement on 24 April 2025, on the other hand, represented quite a constructive approach taking into account the ongoing positive climate in the region thanks to normalization talks between Türkiye and Armenia.

Contrary to the divisive motivation of AR 97, Türkiye and Armenia have been actively engaged in a process of normalization and regional cooperation. Armenian Government underlined that the "recognition" of the so-called genocide is not a foreign policy priority for Armenia and in their official statements even questioned why the genocide claims had emerged in the 1950s (*during the Soviet era*), and recommended the re-examination of the Armenian history.

Armenian Government recently distanced themselves from such "recognition" remarks and highlighted that such statements have nothing to do with the interests of Armenia. Armenian Prime Minister further stated that "recognition" of these historical claims had become a geopolitical bargaining chip for those who have no connection to Armenia and Armenian people.

Finally, last month, Armenian President referred to those who got stuck in "historical memory" and underlined that historical memory should not prevent Armenians from pursuing development and prosperity for their country.

These developments reflect a shared interest in moving forward constructively rather than remaining mired in historical disputes.

Given these recent efforts, it is worth asking why California State Assembly would adopt a resolution that risks undermining diplomatic initiatives. In light of the Assembly's longstanding interest in this topic, I would respectfully encourage the consideration of the recent positive developments that has emerged as a window of opportunity for both nations.

California has an opportunity to encourage and support the regional stability in the Southern Caucasus and to promote community cohesion at home. On the other hand, the adoption of AR 97 and similar resolutions will once again send a counterproductive message, favoring division over engagement. Rather than adopting resolutions that perpetuate animosity lawmakers can support initiatives that promote dialogue in order to contribute to peace.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Menekşe Onuk

Consul General