



STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0124
(916) 319-2800
FAX (916) 319-2810

Assembly
California Legislature
Committee on Rules

KEN COOLEY
CHAIR

VICE CHAIR
CUNNINGHAM, JORDAN

MEMBERS
BROUGH, WILLIAM P.
CERVANTES, SABRINA
CHEN, PHILLIP
FRIEDMAN, LAURA
GRAYSON, TIMOTHY S.
LEVINE, MARC
NAZARIAN, ADRIN
SALAS, JR. RUDY
WALDRON, MARIE

FONG, VINCE (R-ALT)

Monday, August 28, 2017
10 minutes prior to Session
State Capitol, Room 3162

CONSENT AGENDA

BILL REFERRALS

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Bill Referral Memo | Page 2 |
| 2. | Consent Bill Referrals | Page 3 |

RESOLUTIONS

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 3. | ACR-105 (Kiley) | Relative to the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933. | Page 4 |
| 4. | ACR-116 (Limón) | Student Hunger Action Month. | Page 9 |
| 5. | ACR-118 (Waldron) | Women’s suffrage in California: anniversary. | Page 14 |
| 6. | ACR-119 (Rubio) | National Health Center Week. | Page 17 |
| 7. | ACR-121 (Kalra) | California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month. | Page 23 |
| 8. | ACR-122 (Kalra) | California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month. | Page 34 |
| 9. | ACR-124 (Limón) | Court Adoption and Permanency Month. | Page 42 |
| 10. | HR-52 (Kalra) | Diwali. | Page 45 |
| 11. | HR-54 (Irwin) | #Abletosave Month. | Page 56 |
| 12. | HR-57 (Thurmond) | White Supremacy. | Page 60 |



STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0124
(916) 319-2800
FAX (916) 319-2810

Assembly
California Legislature
Committee on Rules

KEN COOLEY
CHAIR

VICE CHAIR
JORDAN CUNNINGHAM

MEMBERS

WILLIAM P. BROUGH
SABRINA CERVANTES
PHILLIP CHEN
LAURA FRIEDMAN
TIMOTHY S. GRAYSON
MARC LEVINE
ADRIN NAZARIAN
RUDY SALAS
MARIE WALDRON

VACANCY (D-ALT.)
VINCE FONG (R-ALT.)

Memo

To: Rules Committee Members
From: Michael Erke, Bill Referral Consultant
Date: 8/25/2017
Re: Consent Bill Referrals

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

REFERRAL OF BILLS TO COMMITTEE

08/28/2017

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

Assembly Bill No.	Committee:
<u>ACR 127</u>	RLS.
<u>ACR 128</u>	RLS.
<u>AJR 23</u>	W.,P. & W.
<u>AJR 24</u>	PUB. S.
<u>HR 57</u>	RLS.
<u>SB 159</u>	W.,P. & W.
<u>SB 174</u>	U. & E.
<u>SCR 76</u>	RLS.
<u>SJR 7</u>	W.,P. & W.

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 24, 2017

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2017–18 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 105

Introduced by Assembly Member Kiley

June 27, 2017

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 105—Relative to the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 105, as amended, Kiley. Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933.

This measure would remember and honor the millions of victims of the man-made Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as “Holodomor,” and their descendants who are living throughout California. The measure would also designate November 25, 2017, as Holodomor Remembrance Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as
2 “Holodomor,” was a man-made famine that caused the deaths of
3 at least five million innocent men, women, and children in Ukraine,
4 resulting in an annihilation of an estimated 25 percent of the rural
5 population of that country, one of the most productive agricultural
6 areas of the Soviet Union; and
7 WHEREAS, This man-made famine also resulted in the deaths
8 of an estimated one to two million people in regions outside
9 Ukraine, mostly in the largely ethnic Ukrainian North Caucasus
10 territory; and

1 WHEREAS, These millions of people were starved to death by
2 forced agricultural collectivization and grain seizures by the Soviet
3 Union; and

4 WHEREAS, Western observers and scholars who accurately
5 reported on the existence of the famine as it was occurring were
6 subjected to disparagement and criticism for their reporting; and

7 WHEREAS, The Soviet Union and many scholars in the west
8 denied the existence of the famine until the collapse of the Soviet
9 Union in 1991 when Soviet Union archives became accessible,
10 thereby making the documentation of the premeditated nature of
11 the famine and its harsh enforcement possible; and

12 WHEREAS, The final report of the United States Commission
13 on the Ukraine Famine, established on December 13, 1985,
14 concluded that the victims were “starved to death in a man-made
15 famine”; and

16 WHEREAS, *The United States Congress authorized the*
17 *government of Ukraine on October 13, 2006, to establish a*
18 *memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia to “honor*
19 *the victims of the Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932–1933”;* and

20 WHEREAS, Although the famine was one of the greatest losses
21 of human life in the 20th century, its occurrence remains
22 insufficiently known in the United States and throughout the world;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, The official recognition of the famine by the
25 government of Ukraine and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine *on*
26 *November 28, 2006,* represents a significant step in the
27 reestablishment of Ukraine’s national identity and the advancement
28 of efforts to establish a democratic and free Ukraine that is fully
29 integrated into the Western community of nations; and

30 WHEREAS, Whether Ukrainian immigrants were fleeing
31 political oppression or religious persecution to pursue better lives
32 for themselves and their families, the desire to live in peace and
33 enjoy liberty was so valued that it drew generations of Ukrainian
34 immigrants to the United States and California in an effort to
35 rebuild their lives; and

36 WHEREAS, California is now home to the third largest
37 Ukrainian American population in the United States, and
38 Ukrainians living in California have enriched our state through
39 their leadership and contributions in agriculture, business,
40 academia, government, and the arts; and

1 WHEREAS, In August 2015, a memorial to the millions who
2 perished in the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as
3 “Holodomor,” was erected in the United States capital, and the
4 dedication ceremony took place on November 7, 2015; now,
5 therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
7 *thereof concurring,* That the millions of victims of the man-made
8 Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as “Holodomor,” and
9 their descendants living throughout California should be solemnly
10 remembered and honored; and be it further

11 *Resolved,* That the Legislature designates November 25, 2017,
12 as Holodomor Remembrance Day in California and encourages
13 individual citizens, educators, businesses, groups, organizations,
14 and public institutions to observe Holodomor Remembrance Day
15 with appropriate activities designed to honor the victims and
16 educate Californians about this tragedy; and be it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: April 28, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
ACR 105 (Kiley) – As Amended August 24, 2017

SUBJECT: Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933

SUMMARY: Designates November 25, 2017, as Holodomor Remembrance Day and honors the millions of victims of the man-made Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, known as "Holodomor," and their descendants who are living throughout California. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, known as "Holodomor," was a man-made famine that caused the deaths of at least five million innocent men, women, and children in Ukraine, resulting in an annihilation of an estimated 25 percent of the rural population of that country, one of the most productive agricultural areas of the Soviet Union.
- 2) This man-made famine also resulted in the deaths of an estimated one to two million people in regions outside Ukraine, mostly in the largely ethnic Ukrainian North Caucasus territory.
- 3) These millions of people were starved to death by forced agricultural collectivization and grain seizures by the Soviet Union.
- 4) The Soviet Union and many scholars in the West denied the existence of the famine until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 when Soviet Union archives became accessible, thereby making the documentation of the premeditated nature of the famine and its harsh enforcement possible.
- 5) The official recognition of the famine by the government of Ukraine and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on November 28, 2006, represents a significant step in the reestablishment of Ukraine's national identity and the advancement of efforts to establish a democratic and free Ukraine that is fully integrated into the Western community of nations.
- 6) California is now home to the third largest Ukrainian-American population in the United States, and Ukrainians living in California have enriched our state through their leadership and contributions in agriculture, business, academia, government, and the arts.
- 7) In August 2015, a memorial to the millions who perished in the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, known as "Holodomor," was erected in the United States capitol, and the dedication ceremony took place on November 7, 2015.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Nicole Willis / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 116

Introduced by Assembly Member Limón

July 20, 2017

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 116—Relative to Student Hunger Action Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 116, as introduced, Limón. Student Hunger Action Month.

This measure would recognize the month of September 2017 as Student Hunger Action Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Many students attending the campuses of the
2 University of California (UC), the California State University
3 (CSU), and the California Community Colleges (CCC) are facing
4 food insecurity and homelessness; and

5 WHEREAS, Students skip meals or take on several jobs to
6 prioritize paying for the rising cost of tuition, books, rent, and
7 additional fees; and

8 WHEREAS, Food insecurity and homelessness affect a student's
9 ability to focus on academic performance and can result in
10 withdrawal from his or her academic enrollment; and

11 WHEREAS, Food insecurity is linked to health risks, including
12 obesity, hypertension, and cardiovascular risk factors; and

13 WHEREAS, The majority of students facing food insecurity
14 and homelessness come from working and middle class
15 backgrounds where they may already experience food insecurity
16 and homelessness; and

1 WHEREAS, The College Equity Assessment Lab at San Diego
2 State University finds that approximately one-third of students
3 surveyed are facing housing insecurity or homelessness, and 12
4 percent face food insecurity; and

5 WHEREAS, Students attending a community college who are
6 facing food insecurity are more likely to indicate their intention
7 to drop out of that community college than those who are food
8 secure; and

9 WHEREAS, According to a CSU report, “Serving Displaced
10 and Food Insecure Students,” staff, faculty, and administrators
11 estimate that 8.7 percent of CSU students were displaced and 21
12 percent of students were food insecure; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the UC’s 2016 Global Food Initiative
14 report, “Student Food Access and Security Study,” 19 percent of
15 UC students indicated that they had “very low” food security,
16 which the United States Department of Agriculture defines as
17 experiencing reduced food intake at times due to limited resources;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The University of California, Santa Barbara, has
20 taken the lead in outreaching, enrolling, and maximizing the
21 CalFresh program benefits for students who are food insecure; and

22 WHEREAS, Several initiatives have surfaced in the UC, the
23 CSU, and the CCC systems to combat food insecurity, such as the
24 UC’s Global Food Initiative and the CSU’s Basic Needs Initiative;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Students who experience food insecurity and
27 homelessness need additional institutional support to continue their
28 studies and gain their certificate or degree; and

29 WHEREAS, The month of September is National Hunger Action
30 Month, an initiative to raise awareness of hunger across the nation;
31 now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
33 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the month of
34 September 2017 as Student Hunger Action Month, and encourages
35 all Californians to join the campaign and become concerned about
36 student hunger and food insecurity in the hope of achieving
37 optimum health for all California students; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O

Date of Hearing: August 28, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
ACR 116 (Limón) – As Introduced July 20, 2017

SUBJECT: Student Hunger Action Month

SUMMARY: Recognizes the month of September 2017 as Student Hunger Action Month. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Many students attending the campuses of the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges (CCC) are facing food insecurity and homelessness.
- 2) Food insecurity and homelessness affect a student's ability to focus on academic performance and can result in withdrawal from his or her academic enrollment. Students skip meals or take on several jobs to prioritize paying for the rising cost of tuition, books, rent, and additional fees.
- 3) The majority of these students come from working and middle class backgrounds where they may already experience food insecurity and homelessness.
- 4) The College Equity Assessment Lab at San Diego State University finds that approximately one-third of students surveyed are facing housing insecurity or homelessness, and 12 percent face food insecurity.
- 5) According to a CSU report, "Serving Displaced and Food Insecure Students," staff, faculty, and administrators estimate that 8.7 percent of CSU students were displaced and 21 percent of students were food insecure.
- 6) According to the UC's 2016 Global Food Initiative report, "Student Food Access and Security Study," 19 percent of UC students indicated that they had 'very low' food security, which the United States Department of Agriculture defines as experiencing reduced food intake at times due to limited resources.
- 7) The University of California, Santa Barbara, has taken the lead in outreaching, enrolling, and maximizing the CalFresh program benefits for students who are food insecure. Several initiatives have surfaced in the UC, the CSU, and the CCC systems to combat food insecurity, such as the UC's Global Food Initiative and the CSU's Basic Needs Initiative.
- 8) Students who experience food insecurity and homelessness need additional institutional support to continue their studies and gain their certificate or degree.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Nicole Willis / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 118

**Introduced by Assembly Member Waldron
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Baker, Caballero, and Cristina
Garcia)**

August 21, 2017

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 118—Relative to the 106th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage in California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 118, as introduced, Waldron. Women’s suffrage in California: anniversary.

This measure would proclaim October 10, 2017, as the 106th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, While American women generally gained the right
2 to vote in 1920, the women of California had already won the right
3 to vote in 1911, nearly a decade earlier; and
4 WHEREAS, On October 10, 1911, a majority of California men
5 voted for political equality and passed Proposition 4, a women’s
6 suffrage amendment to the California Constitution placed on the
7 ballot by the Legislature; and
8 WHEREAS, Before that date, although women had been
9 working and organizing since 1848 to win the franchise, only five
10 western states had thus far approved the radical and controversial
11 idea; and
12 WHEREAS, California became the sixth state in the nation to
13 approve political equality, approving women’s suffrage in

1 California nine years before the 19th Amendment to the United
2 States Constitution was ratified, which guaranteed women
3 throughout the country the right to vote; and

4 WHEREAS, The successful 1911 campaign for women's
5 suffrage drew help from suffragists all over America, a formidable
6 effort by all who learned from an earlier unsuccessful campaign
7 in 1896; now, therefore, be it

8 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
9 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby recognizes October
10 10, 2017, as the 106th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in
11 California and encourages all Californians to join in this
12 observance; and be it further

13 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and
14 transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor and to the author
15 for distribution.

O

Date of Hearing: August 28, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
ACR 118 (Waldron) – As Introduced August 21, 2017

SUBJECT: Women’s Suffrage in California: Anniversary

SUMMARY: Proclaims October 10, 2017, as the 106th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage in California. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) On October 10, 1911, a majority of California men voted for political equality and passed Proposition 4, a women’s suffrage amendment to the California Constitution placed on the ballot by the Legislature.
- 2) Before that date, although women had been working and organizing since 1848 to win the franchise, only five western states had thus far approved the radical and controversial idea.
- 3) California became the sixth state in the nation to approve political equality, approving women’s suffrage in California nine years before the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified, which granted women throughout the country the right to vote.
- 4) The successful 1911 campaign for women’s suffrage drew help from suffragists all over America, a formidable effort by all who learned from an earlier unsuccessful campaign in 1896.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Nicole Willis / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 119

Introduced by Assembly Member Rubio

August 21, 2017

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 119—Relative to National Health Center Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 119, as introduced, Rubio. National Health Center Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of August 13, 2017, to August 19, 2017, inclusive, as National Health Center Week in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Community clinics and health centers are at the
2 core of the nation's health care safety net, serving anyone and
3 everyone who walks through their doors, regardless of their ability
4 to pay, and are the medical homes for more than 25 million people
5 in 9,800 rural and urban communities across the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, According to multiple government, academic, and
7 private studies, community clinics and health centers have proven
8 to be the most cost-effective health care providers in the field,
9 saving nearly \$24 billion annually by keeping patients out of
10 costlier health care settings, such as emergency rooms; and

11 WHEREAS, Community clinics and health centers are private,
12 nonprofit corporations. The majority of their boards of directors,
13 by law, must be their patients and consumers, and their services
14 are funded primarily through public programs, such as Medicaid,
15 federal grants, and state initiatives; and

1 WHEREAS, Community clinics and health centers in California
2 and throughout the nation have led the movement for a fair and
3 equitable health care system, treating medically underserved
4 populations in medically underserved areas by reaching into the
5 inner city and the most rural and geographically isolated
6 communities; and

7 WHEREAS, In California, more than 6.2 million low-income
8 families, children, seniors, women, non-English speakers, people
9 of color, and homeless individuals currently receive comprehensive
10 primary care services at nearly 1,200 community clinics and health
11 centers throughout the state; and

12 WHEREAS, California community clinics and health centers
13 contribute directly and indirectly to more than 58,000 jobs that
14 help to provide a wide range of services to patients, including
15 preventive care, chronic disease management, well child, dental,
16 pharmaceutical, immunization, mental health, substance abuse,
17 breast cancer, nutrition, family planning, and pregnancy-related
18 services, all of which are provided with particular sensitivity to
19 language and cultural competency; and

20 WHEREAS, California's community clinics and health centers
21 have the major responsibility of providing health care services to
22 the state's most disadvantaged families and individuals, and
23 community health centers are the primary care provider to more
24 than 54 percent of the Medicaid beneficiaries in California who
25 gained coverage under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable
26 Care Act (PPACA), and more than one-third of Californians are
27 Medicaid beneficiaries; and

28 WHEREAS, The Medicaid expansion has proven to be one of
29 the most important aspects of the PPACA, providing
30 comprehensive coverage to some of the most chronically ill people
31 who have no other health care options; and

32 WHEREAS, In many rural communities throughout California,
33 community health centers serve as the only source of medical and
34 wellness care for middle- and working-class families in the region;
35 and

36 WHEREAS, California's and the nation's community clinics
37 and health centers deserve to be recognized and acknowledged for
38 their valuable services to their communities and the state, their
39 cost-effective delivery of primary health care services to the most

1 vulnerable populations, and their leadership in working for fair
2 and equitable health care reform; and

3 WHEREAS, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity
4 to recognize America's health centers, their dedicated staff and
5 board members, and all those responsible for the continued success
6 and growth of the program since its creation over 50 years ago.
7 During National Health Center Week, the legacy of America's
8 health centers and their vital role in shaping the future of America's
9 health care system is celebrated; now, therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
11 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature joins in proclaiming the
12 week of August 13, 2017, to August 19, 2017, inclusive, as
13 National Health Center Week in California; and be it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: August 28, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
ACR 119 (Rubio) – As Introduced August 21, 2017

SUBJECT: National Health Center Week

SUMMARY: Proclaims the week of August 13, 2017, to August 19, 2017, inclusive, as National Health Center Week in California. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Community clinics and health centers are at the core of the nation's health care safety net, serving anyone and everyone who walks through their doors, regardless of their ability to pay, and are the medical homes for more than 25 million people in 9,800 rural and urban communities across the nation.
- 2) According to multiple government, academic, and private studies, community clinics and health centers have been proven to be the most cost-effective health care providers in the field, saving nearly \$24 billion annually by keeping patients out of costlier health care settings, such as emergency rooms.
- 3) In California, more than 6.2 million low-income families, children, seniors, women, non-English speakers, people of color, and homeless individuals currently receive comprehensive primary care services at more than 1,200 community clinics and health centers throughout the state.
- 4) California's community clinics and health centers have the major responsibility of providing health care services to the state's most disadvantaged families and individuals, and community health centers are the primary care provider to more than 54 percent of the Medicaid beneficiaries in California who gained coverage under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), and more than one-third of Californians are Medicaid beneficiaries.
- 5) The Medicaid expansion has proven to be one of the most important aspects of the PPACA, providing comprehensive coverage to some of the most chronically ill people who have no other health care options.
- 6) California's and the nation's community clinics and health centers deserve to be recognized and acknowledged for their valuable services to their communities and the state, their cost-effective delivery of primary health care services to the most vulnerable populations, and their leadership working for fair and equitable health care reform.
- 7) National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to recognize America's health centers, their dedicated staff and board members, and all those responsible for the continued success and growth of the program since its creation over 50 years ago. During National Health Center Week, the legacy of America's health centers and their vital role in shaping the future of America's health care system is celebrated.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Health+ Advocates

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Nicole Willis / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

August 24, 2017

The Honorable Ken Cooley
Chair, Assembly Rules Committee
State Capitol, Room 3016
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: ACR 119 (Rubio) National Health Center Week – Sponsor

Dear Assembly Member Cooley,

CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates, who are committed to advancing the mission of California's 1,150 not-for-profit community health centers (CHCs) that provide comprehensive, quality health care services to one in seven Californians each year, and employ more than 58,000 Californians, writes today to sponsor ACR 119.

CHCs provide healthcare services to California's most vulnerable populations, with 76 percent of CHCs patients at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and nearly 40 percent identifying a language other than English as their primary language. Additionally, CHCs see about 6.2 million patients a year, many of whom rely on having a care team that reflects their community – speaks their language, shares their traditions and life experiences.

ACR 119 proclaims the week of August 13th to August 19th 2017 as National Health Center Week. During National Health Center Week, the legacy of America's health centers and their vital role in shaping the future of America's health care system is celebrated.

In addition, Community health centers in California and throughout the nation have led the movement for a fair and equitable health care system, treating medically underserved populations by reaching into the inner city and the most rural and geographically isolated communities.

For these reasons, CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates respectfully requests that you support ACR 119.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Victor Christy at (916) 503-9126 or Beth Malinowski at (916) 503-9112.

Sincerely,



Carmela Castellano-Garcia
President and CEO

cc: Members, Assembly Rules Committee
Assembly Member Blanca Rubio

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 121

Introduced by Assembly Member Kalra
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Cooper, Cristina Garcia,
and Quirk Quirk, and Chu)

(Principal coauthor: Senator Wieckowski)

(~~Coauthor: Senator Beall~~)

(*Coauthors: Senators Beall and Pan*)

August 21, 2017

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 121—Relative to California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 121, as introduced, Kalra. California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

This measure would designate the month of October 2017 as California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month. The measure would also recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions made by Californians of Hindu heritage to our state. By adoption of this resolution, the Legislature seeks to increase awareness and understanding of the Hindu American community.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California and the nation have been influenced by
- 2 the extraordinary cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity
- 3 of its residents; and
- 4 WHEREAS, There is an estimated one billion Hindus
- 5 worldwide, and approximately 2.3 million Hindu Americans live
- 6 across the nation; and

1 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest Hindu American
2 population in the United States; and
3 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans in California represent diverse
4 ethnic backgrounds, including individuals of Indian, Pakistani,
5 Bangladeshi, Malaysian, Indonesian, Afghani, Nepali, Bhutanese,
6 Sri Lankan, Fijian, Caribbean, and European descent; and
7 WHEREAS, California and our nation have greatly benefited
8 from Hindu Americans, especially through the Vedanta philosophy,
9 Ayurvedic medicine, classical Indian art, dance, music, meditation,
10 yoga, literature, and community service; and
11 WHEREAS, The United States was officially introduced to
12 Hinduism by Swami Vivekananda in 1893 at the World’s
13 Parliament of Religions in Chicago, and in 1900 he founded the
14 Vedanta Society in San Francisco, California; and
15 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans and the Vedanta philosophy
16 have significantly influenced notable intellectuals such as Henry
17 David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman, J.D.
18 Salinger, Christopher Isherwood, Aldous Huxley, Huston Smith,
19 and Joseph Campbell; and
20 WHEREAS, The first Hindu temple in the United States was
21 built in San Francisco, California, and at the dedication of the
22 temple on January 7, 1906, it was proclaimed to be the “First Hindu
23 Temple in the Whole Western World”; and
24 WHEREAS, There are now over 120 Hindu temples, religious
25 centers, and cultural centers throughout California, and the greater
26 bay area is home to over 40 of those temples and centers; and
27 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans have greatly enriched
28 California’s higher education university systems by teaching
29 numerous students, especially in the academic fields of
30 astrophysics, computer science, engineering, law, planetary science,
31 psychology, and neurosciences and a majority of Hindu Americans
32 are in high-skill occupations; and
33 WHEREAS, Seventy-seven percent of Hindu Americans have
34 a college degree and nearly 50 percent of Hindus have a
35 postgraduate degree, according to the Pew Research Center; and
36 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans share the entrepreneurial spirit
37 of America and contribute to California’s economic vitality, having
38 been pioneers and leaders in Silicon Valley and founded several
39 of its early startups. Hindu Americans are estimated to make up
40 40 percent of startups in Silicon Valley; and

1 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans have also contributed to many
2 of California’s economic sectors and have particularly excelled in
3 the areas of business, law, politics, information technology,
4 medicine, and science; and

5 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans now serve in various levels of
6 government across the state and nation, including four Members
7 in the United States House of Representatives; and

8 WHEREAS, California Hindu temples, organizations, and
9 individuals actively engage in seva, a Sanskrit word for selfless
10 service, towards their fellow human beings through charity, public
11 service, and the provision of free medical and legal services; and

12 WHEREAS, Ahimsa, which is the Sanskrit word for noninjury
13 or nonviolence, is a central principle for Hindu Americans in
14 California, and it provides the ethical foundation for vegetarianism,
15 environmentalism, and harmonious living; and

16 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans in cities throughout California
17 celebrate numerous holidays and festivals, such as Diwali, which
18 celebrates the victory of good over evil and knowledge over
19 ignorance; and

20 WHEREAS, Despite their positive contributions to California
21 and this nation, Hindu Americans have been the targets of
22 discrimination, hate speech, and bias-motivated crimes; and

23 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans face stereotypes and
24 misconceptions about their heritage and beliefs in the media and
25 in elementary and middle-school textbooks; and

26 WHEREAS, One out of three Hindu Americans reported being
27 bullied in the classroom for their religious beliefs according to a
28 2016 bullying report by the Hindu American Foundation entitled
29 Classroom Subjected: Bullying and Bias against Hindu Students
30 in American Schools; and

31 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans promote the ideals of tolerance,
32 pluralism, and religious freedom, which are inherent to their beliefs
33 and respect the diversity of all faiths, and the Vedas, the 5000 year
34 old texts of Hindu Americans, provide the basis for these core
35 principles: “Truth is one, the wise call it by many names” (Ekam
36 sat viprah bahudha vadanti); now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
38 *concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the month of
39 October 2017 as California Hindu American Awareness and
40 Appreciation Month; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and acknowledges
2 the significant contributions made by Californians of Hindu
3 heritage to our state, and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to
4 increase awareness and understanding of the Hindu American
5 community; and be it further

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

8

9

10 **REVISIONS:**

11 **Heading—Lines 3 and 5.**

12

O

Date of Hearing: August 28, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
ACR 121 (Kalra) – As Introduced August 21, 2017

SUBJECT: California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month

SUMMARY: Designates the month of October 2017 as California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month, and recognizes the significant contributions made by Californians of Hindu heritage. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) There is an estimated one billion Hindus worldwide, and more than 2 million Hindu Americans live across the nation, and California is home to the largest Hindu American population in the United States.
- 2) Hindu Americans in California represent diverse ethnic backgrounds, including individuals of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Malaysian, Indonesian, Afghani, Nepali, Bhutanese, Sri Lankan, Fijian, Caribbean, and European descent.
- 3) California and our nation have greatly benefited from Hindu Americans, especially through the Vedanta philosophy, Ayurvedic medicine, classical Indian art, dance, music, meditation, literature, and community service.
- 4) Hindu Americans have greatly enriched California's higher education university systems by teaching numerous students, especially in the academic fields of astrophysics, computer science, engineering, law, planetary science, psychology, and neurosciences.
- 5) Hindu Americans share the entrepreneurial spirit of America and contribute to California's economic vitality, having been pioneers and leaders in Silicon Valley and founded several of its early startups. Hindu Americans are estimated to make up 40 percent of startups in Silicon Valley.
- 6) Hindu Americans now serve in various levels of government across the state and nation, including four Members in the United States House of Representatives.
- 7) Ahimsa, which is the Sanskrit word for noninjury or nonviolence, is a central principle for Hindu Americans in California, and it provides the ethical foundation for vegetarianism, environmentalism, and harmonious living.
- 8) Despite their positive contributions to California and this nation, Hindu Americans have been targets of discrimination, hate speech, and bias-motivated crimes.
- 9) Hindu Americans promote the ideals of tolerance, pluralism, and religious freedom, which are inherent to their beliefs and respect the diversity of all faiths.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

[Back to Agenda](#)

Support

Gujarati Samaj of Sacramento
Hindu American Foundation (HAF)
Hindupedia – the Hindu Encyclopedia
Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA, Inc.
Overseas Volunteer for a Better India

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Nicole Willis / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

August 24, 2017

The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chair
Assembly Rules Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 3016
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ACR 121 (Kalra) -- Support -- Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month

Dear Assemblymember Cooley,

I write on behalf of the Gujarati Samaj of Sacramento to **support** ACR 121, which would designate October 2017 as *California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month*.

India has an ancient history and Hinduism is the oldest religion of the world. Some practitioners refers to it as "The Eternal Tradition" or "eternal way" beyond human history. ACR 121 would raise awareness about this history and the contributions of Hindu Americans in California, many of whom are from the Gujarat state of India.

Gujarati Samaj of Sacramento is one of the oldest regional associations in Sacramento. Gujarati Samaj of Sacramento started India Day in Sacramento and had an active role in forming IAS (Indian Association of Sacramento), with many GSS members forming/starting IAS. Gujarati Samaj of Sacramento was established in 1979. It is largest regional community in the region with more than 7000 people (Gujaratis) in Sacramento (Greater Sacramento). The majority of Gujaratis in the area are businessman, doctors, and engineers.

Gujarati Samaj of Sacramento strongly supports ACR 121 to recognize October 2017 as Hindu American awareness and Appreciation Month

Regards,

Jaimin Upadhyay
President, Gujarati Samaj of Sacramento
E-Mail: gujsac@gmail.com
Website address: www.gujsac.org



August 21, 2017

The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chair
Assembly Rules Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 3016
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ACR 121 (Kalra) -- Support -- Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month

Dear Assemblymember Cooley,

I write on behalf of the Hindu American Foundation (HAF), a national nonprofit advocacy organization for the Hindu American community, to express our strong **support** for ACR 121.

ACR 121 would designate October 2017 as *California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month*. As the nation's largest state, California is home to extraordinary diversity with residents representing a myriad of ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious backgrounds.

In order to celebrate this rich diversity and foster an environment of inclusiveness and pluralism, it is imperative that we recognize the contributions made by various communities to this great state. ACR 121 does just that by officially acknowledging and honoring the historic presence and significant contributions of Hindu Americans in California.

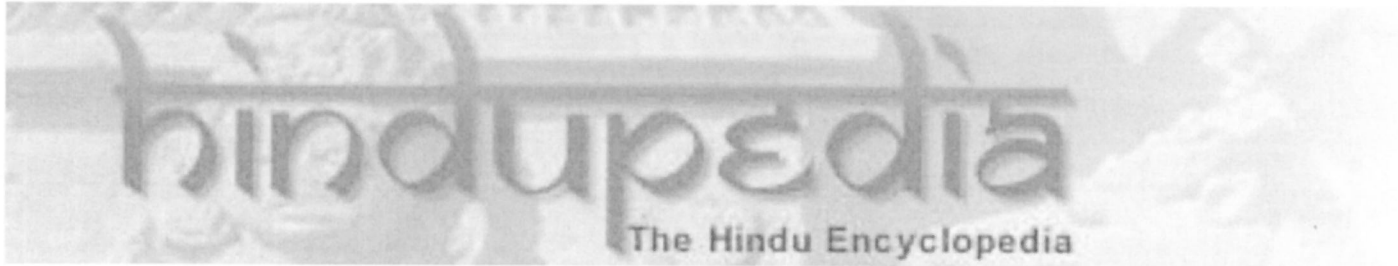
In 2013, this legislature made history by passing SCR 32 and California became the first state in the nation to ever recognize a Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month. It also subsequently passed SCR 93 to designate October 2014 as Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

Accordingly, we strongly support ACR 121 to similarly recognize October 2017 as Hindu American awareness and Appreciation Month in order to increase inter-religious and cultural understanding about California's large Hindu American population.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions by phone at 408.464.8715 or by email at samir@hafsite.org.

Sincerely,

Samir Kalra, Esq.
Senior Director
Hindu American Foundation



Hindupedia, The Hinduism Encyclopedia
10367 Menhart Lane
Cupertino, CA 95014

The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chair
Assembly Rules Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 3016
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 23, 2017

RE: ACR 121 (Kalra) -- Support -- Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month

Dear Assemblymember Cooley,

I write on behalf of Hindupedia, a national non-profit educational organization building an online Encyclopedia of Hinduism to express our strong **support** for ACR 121. To date, we have published 5,700 articles and receive over 80,000 visitors a month from across the world.

ACR 121 would designate October 2017 as *California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month*. California is home to residents representing people of many different ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds.

It is imperative that we recognize the contributions made by various communities to this great state to celebrate our diversity and foster an environment of inclusiveness and pluralism. ACR 121 does just that by officially acknowledging and honoring the historic presence and significant contributions of Hindu Americans in California.

This legislature passed SCR 32 and 93 recognizing Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month in 2013 and 2014 respectively.

Accordingly, we strongly support ACR 121 to similarly recognize October 2017 as Hindu American awareness and Appreciation Month to increase inter-religious and cultural understanding about California's large Hindu American population.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions by phone at 203-794-6725 or by email at krishna@hindupedia.com

Sincerely,

Krishna Maheshwari
President, Hindupedia
www.hindupedia.com



Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA, Inc.

A tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Federal ID 52-1647017



August 24, 2017

The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chair
Assembly Rules Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 3016
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ACR 121 (Kalra) -- Support -- Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month

Dear Assemblymember Cooley,

I write on behalf of the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), the largest grass-root national nonprofit cultural organization for the Hindu American community, to express our strong support for ACR 121.

ACR 121 would designate October 2017 as California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month. As the nation's largest state, California is home to extraordinary diversity with residents representing a myriad of ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious backgrounds.

In order to celebrate this rich diversity and foster an environment of inclusiveness and pluralism, it is imperative that we recognize the contributions made by various communities to this great state. ACR 121 does just that by officially acknowledging and honoring the historic presence and significant contributions of Hindu Americans in California.

In 2013, this legislature made history by passing SCR 32 and California became the first state in the nation to ever recognize a Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month. It also subsequently passed SCR 93 to designate October 2014 as Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month. Accordingly, we strongly support ACR 121 to similarly recognize October 2017 as Hindu American awareness and Appreciation Month in order to increase inter-religious and cultural understanding about California's large Hindu American population.

Therefore, we strongly support ACR 121. Please feel free to contact me with any questions by phone at 408.507.7643 or by email at tripathisan@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Sanjay Tripathi
Exec. Director, Western Region
Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh

Overseas Volunteer for a Better India

A Global Platform for Positive Change



August 24, 2017

The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chair
Assembly Rules Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 3016
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ACR 121 (Kalra) -- Support -- Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month

Dear Assemblymember Cooley,

I write on behalf of the Overseas Volunteers for Better India (OVBI), a national nonprofit organization for the Indian American community, to express our strong support for ACR 121.

OVBI was launched in 2013 to support many service projects in India - river rejuvenation, saving girls from human trafficking, skills development among rural youth to name a few. It also serves to promote strong Indian community in the United States by celebrating cultural festivals, education and awareness campaigns, as well as community services by providing a strong support structure for victims of hate crimes, domestic violence and racial discrimination.

ACR 121 would designate October 2017 as California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month. As the nation's largest state, California is home to extraordinary diversity with residents representing a myriad of ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious backgrounds.

In order to celebrate this rich diversity and foster an environment of inclusiveness and pluralism, it is imperative that we recognize the contributions made by various communities to this great state. ACR 121 does just that by officially acknowledging and honoring the historic presence and significant contributions of Hindu Americans in California.

In 2013, this legislature made history by passing SCR 32 and California became the first state in the nation to ever recognize a Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month. It also subsequently passed SCR 93 to designate October 2014 as Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

Accordingly, we strongly support ACR 121 to similarly recognize October 2017 as Hindu American awareness and Appreciation Month in order to increase inter-religious and cultural understanding about California's large Hindu American population.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions by phone at 202.468.9474 or by email at satej.chaudhary@overseasvbi.org.

Sincerely,

S. Chaudhary

Satej Chaudhary President,
Overseas Volunteer for Better India

Overseas Volunteer for a Better India, 1410 Gardenia Street, IRVING, TX 75063 T: 732.354.1248
EMAIL: invites@overseasvbi.org WWW.OVERSEASVBI.ORG

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 122

Introduced by Assembly Member Kalra
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Chu, Cooper, Gallagher,
Cristina Garcia, and Quirk)

(Principal coauthors: Senators Nielsen and Wieckowski)

~~(Coauthor: Senator Beall)~~

(Coauthors: Senators Beall and Pan)

August 21, 2017

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 122—Relative to California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 122, as introduced, Kalra. California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

This measure would designate November as California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month. The measure would recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions that Californians of Sikh heritage have made to the state and would seek to afford all Californians the opportunity to understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans. The measure would also condemn all hate crimes and bias incidents against Sikh Americans and encourage all Sikhs to practice their faith freely and fearlessly.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California and our nation are at once blessed and
- 2 enriched by the unparalleled diversity of our residents; and

1 WHEREAS, Sikhs, who originated in Punjab, India, first entered
2 California in 1899 through the Angel Island Immigration Station
3 in San Francisco, California; and

4 WHEREAS, The Sikh pioneers initially worked on railroad
5 construction projects, and in lumber mills; and

6 WHEREAS, By 1910, these pioneers turned to farming in the
7 Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Imperial Valleys; and

8 WHEREAS, On October 14, 1912, the first Sikh house of
9 worship (gurdwara) in the United States, the Sikh Temple Stockton,
10 was founded by Jawala Singh and Wasakha Singh. The following
11 year the congregation formed the Pacific Coast Khalsa Diwan
12 Society; and

13 WHEREAS, There are now more than 200 gurdwaras in the
14 United States of which there are 32 known gurdwaras in California
15 including the Gurdwara Sahib of San Jose, the largest gurdwara
16 in North America; and

17 WHEREAS, The Stockton Record, dated November 22, 1915,
18 quoted the gurdwara's elected leadership declaring, "We do not
19 permit our people to become charges on public charity. If a man
20 is hungry and out of funds we feed him. Our dining room is open
21 at all hours of the day and is closed only for a few hours during
22 the night. The unfortunate hungry American will be as welcome
23 as our own people"; and

24 WHEREAS, Legislation to authorize Sikhs and other East Indian
25 immigrants to naturalize as United States citizens was not enacted
26 until 1946; and

27 WHEREAS, On January 1, 1912, Jawala Singh and Wasakha
28 Singh, who migrated to California through Angel Island in 1908
29 and served as the founding Granthis of the Sikh Temple Stockton,
30 recognized the value of education, and started six Guru Gobind
31 Singh Educational Scholarships at the University of California,
32 Berkeley; and

33 WHEREAS, These scholarships were awarded without regard
34 to ethnicity or religion and the first awardees included three
35 Hindus, one Christian, one Sikh, and one Muslim; and

36 WHEREAS, Board and lodging was provided at the students'
37 home at 1731 Allston Way, Berkeley, where smoking and drinking
38 were prohibited; and

39 WHEREAS, On November 1, 1913, The Ghadar, the first
40 Punjabi-language newspaper in the United States, was published

1 by Kartar Singh Sarabha, who was then 17 years of age, with
2 financial support from the Stockton Gurdwara; and

3 WHEREAS, On December 31, 1913, Jawala Singh and Wasakha
4 Singh organized the Ghadri Conclave in Sacramento to form the
5 Ghadar Party to overthrow the British colonial rulers of the Indian
6 subcontinent; and

7 WHEREAS, The Ghadar Party sent 616 of its members to India,
8 of whom 86 percent were Sikhs; and

9 WHEREAS, Homage is paid to them annually at a dozen
10 different gatherings called melas from Sacramento, California, to
11 Bakersfield, California; and

12 WHEREAS, Sikh history and culture is represented in the Asian
13 Art Museum in San Francisco, in the Smithsonian Museum in
14 Washington, D.C., in the Community Memorial Museum of Sutter
15 County, and in the museum at the Sikh Temple Stockton; and

16 WHEREAS, Sikh farmers contribute abundantly towards
17 production of peaches, raisins, grapes, almonds, pistachios, okra,
18 and other specialized crops of fruits, vegetables, and nuts; and

19 WHEREAS, Sikhs have also excelled in security services and
20 transportation services, as doctors, attorneys, engineers, teachers,
21 and small business owners, and in other notable capacities; and

22 WHEREAS, Dalip Singh Saund, a Sikh who was born in Punjab,
23 India, earned a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley
24 in 1924, initially worked as a foreman of cotton pickers in the
25 Imperial Valley, and later became a farmer, played a major role
26 in raising the funds needed to lobby for the Luce-Celler Act of
27 1946 that enabled him and others to naturalize as citizens, and
28 served as an elected judge in the Westmoreland Judicial District
29 from 1952 to 1956, before becoming the first Asian American
30 elected to the United States Congress, wherein he served three
31 terms from 1957 to 1963; and

32 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have served and continue to serve
33 as mayors and council members of many California cities; and

34 WHEREAS, Sikhs have served in all American wars since WWI,
35 including Bhagat Singh Thind, a Sikh born in Punjab, India, who
36 was a United States veteran of World War I, who campaigned
37 actively for the independence of India from British rule, who
38 supported Indian students and lectured on metaphysics throughout
39 the United States, and who has been honored by the Fred T.
40 Korematsu Institute as a “Race in the Courts Hero” for fighting

1 his citizenship case in the United States Supreme Court in 1923;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Narinder Singh Kapany of Palo Alto, a Sikh born
4 in Punjab, India, is an accomplished scientist and inventor, who
5 has been awarded over 100 patents that spurred advances in lasers,
6 biomedical instrumentation, pollution monitoring, and solar energy,
7 and is widely acknowledged to be the father of fiber optics, a
8 technology that has allowed for high-speed digital communication;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Yuba City, often called “Mini-Punjab” because of
11 its 10 percent Punjabi population, commemorates the inauguration
12 of the holy Sikh scripture, Sri Guru Granth Sahib, on the first
13 Sunday of November, rain or shine, and this international event
14 has in recent years attracted up to 100,000 participants from all
15 over the United States, Canada, and even abroad; and

16 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans throughout California celebrate
17 the coronation of Sikh scripture and other Sikh festivals at the
18 gurdwaras and through parades in cities across California and the
19 United States; and

20 WHEREAS, Various Sikh organizations, including the Sikh
21 Council of Central California, the Sikh Coalition, the Sikh
22 American Legal Defense and Education Fund, United Sikhs, and
23 Jakara, and individual gurdwaras participate in interfaith meetings,
24 seminars, conferences, meetings, and functions and share the tenets
25 of their monotheistic religion that respects other religions and
26 welcome all to their gurdwaras, and try to promote mutual
27 understanding and respect among all peoples; and

28 WHEREAS, The Sikh American community continues to
29 peacefully overcome attacks on its identity and practices, whether
30 in the form of school harassment, employment discrimination, or
31 hate crimes, including the murders of six Sikhs during the Oak
32 Creek, Wisconsin Sikh Gurdwara shooting on August 5, 2012, as
33 well as the senseless murders of Surinder Singh and Gurmej Singh
34 Atwal in Elk Grove, California, on March 4, 2011; and

35 WHEREAS, Due to ignorance and hate, Sikhs have been the
36 subject of hate crimes due to their articles of faith, including a
37 turban and beard, which represent the Sikh religious commitment
38 to justice, equality, and dignity for all.

39 WHEREAS, The faithful service of the Sikh American
40 community to this state and country merits appreciation as an

1 integral thread in the fabric of American plurality; now, therefore,
2 be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
4 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates the
5 month of November 2017 to be California’s Sikh American
6 Awareness and Appreciation Month; and be it further

7 *Resolved,* That the Legislature recognizes and acknowledges
8 the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage
9 to our state, and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to afford all
10 Californians the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and
11 appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans;
12 and be it further

13 *Resolved,* That the Legislature condemns all hate crimes and
14 bias incidents against Sikh Americans and encourages all Sikhs
15 to practice their faith freely and fearlessly; and be it further

16 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
17 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution to the
18 Members of the Legislature, members of the California Sikh
19 American community, and other interested organizations or
20 persons.

21

22

23 **REVISIONS:**
24 **Heading—Line 5.**

25

O

Date of Hearing: August 28, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
ACR 122 (Kalra) – As Introduced August 21, 2017

SUBJECT: California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month

SUMMARY: Designates November as California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month and recognizes and acknowledges the significant contributions Californians of Sikh heritage have made to the state. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following findings:

- 1) California and our nation are blessed and enriched by the unparalleled diversity of our residents; and, the Sikhs, who originated in Punjab, India first entered California in 1899 through the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco, California.
- 2) Sikh pioneers initially worked on railroad construction projects, and in lumber mills, but by 1910, these pioneers turned to farming in the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Imperial Valleys.
- 3) In 1912, the first Sikh house of worship (gurdwara) in the United States, the Sikh Temple of Stockton, was founded by Jawala Singh and Wasakha Singh of the Pacific Coast Khalsa Diwan Society. There are now more than 200 gurdwaras in the United States.
- 4) On December 31, 1913, Jawala Singh and Wasakha Singh organized the Ghadri Conclave in Sacramento to form the Ghadar Party to overthrow the British colonial rulers of the Indian subcontinent; and the Ghadar Party sent 616 of its members to India, of whom 86 percent for Sikhs.
- 5) Sikh history and culture is represented in the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C., in the Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County, and the museum at the Sikh Temple Stockton.
- 6) Sikh farmers contribute abundantly towards production of peaches, raisins, grapes, almonds, pistachios, okra, and other specialized crops of fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Sikhs have also excelled in security services, and transportation services, as doctors, attorneys, engineers, teachers, and small business owners.
- 7) The faithful service of the Sikh American community to this state and country merits appreciation as an integral thread in the fabric of American plurality.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

The Sikh Coalition

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Nicole Willis / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

August 24, 2017

The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chairman
Assembly Rules Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 3016
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month

Dear Chairman Cooley:

The Sikh Coalition is proud to sponsor ACR 122, as introduced on August 21, 2017, designating November 2017 as California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

For over a century, Sikh Americans in all walks of life have strengthened the socio-economic fabric of California, and we are grateful that you and your colleagues are recognizing the contributions of this industrious, generous, and resilient community.

Respectfully,



Sapreet Kaur
Executive Director

cc: Assembly Member Ash Kalra



Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 124

Introduced by Assembly Member Limón

August 22, 2017

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 124—Relative to Court Adoption and Permanency Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 124, as introduced, Limón. Court Adoption and Permanency Month.

This measure would designate November 2017 as Court Adoption and Permanency Month, and would encourage the courts and their local communities to promote safe, stable, and permanent homes for children.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Consistent with its commitment to support practices
2 and procedures that promote access to justice and improved case
3 outcomes for California’s children and families, the Judicial
4 Council has recognized November as Court Adoption and
5 Permanency Month every year since 1999; and

6 WHEREAS, Half a million incidents of child abuse and neglect
7 are reported each year in California, and about 24,100 children
8 enter child welfare-supervised foster care for the first time; and

9 WHEREAS, Nearly 60,900 children in California live apart
10 from their families in child welfare-supervised out-of-home care;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Forty percent of the children in foster care in
13 California have lived apart from their families for two or more
14 years; and

1 WHEREAS, Twenty-three percent of the youth in care are
2 transitional-age youth 16 to 20 years of age, inclusive; and
3 WHEREAS, Of the more than 28,900 California children who
4 left foster care in the 12 months preceding December 2016, 50
5 percent were reunited with their families, 23 percent were adopted,
6 and 7 percent exited foster care without reunifying or obtaining a
7 permanent home by the time they reached the age of majority; and
8 WHEREAS, Local courts and communities throughout
9 California have created programs promoting permanency that have
10 resulted in a reduction in the number of children waiting to live in
11 safe, stable, and permanent homes; and
12 WHEREAS, The Judicial Council remains committed to working
13 with the Governor, the Legislature, and local courts and
14 communities to ensure that every abused or neglected child finds
15 a safe, stable, and permanent home with a loving family as quickly
16 as possible; now, therefore, be it
17 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
18 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates
19 November 2017 as Court Adoption and Permanency Month, during
20 which the courts and their local communities are encouraged to
21 join in activities to expedite permanency for children; and be it
22 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: August 28, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
ACR 124 (Limón) – As Introduced August 22, 2017

SUBJECT: Court Adoption and Permanency Month

SUMMARY: Designates November 2017 as Court Adoption and Permanency Month and encourages the courts and their local communities to promote safe, stable, and permanent homes for children. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Consistent with its commitment to support practices and procedures that promote access to justice and improved case outcomes for California's children and families, the Judicial Council has recognized November as Court Adoption and Permanency Month every year since 1999.
- 2) Each year in California nearly half a million incidents of child abuse and neglect are reported and about 24,100 children enter child welfare-supervised foster care for the first time. Nearly 60,900 California children live apart from their families in child welfare-supervised out-of-home care.
- 3) Forty percent of the children in foster care in California have lived apart from their families for two or more years. Twenty-three percent of the youth in care are transitional-age youth between 16 and 20 years of age.
- 4) Of the more than 28,900 California children who left foster care in the 12 months preceding December 2016, 50 percent were reunited with their families, 23 percent were adopted, and 7 percent exited foster care without reunifying or obtaining a permanent home by the time they reached the age of majority.
- 5) The Judicial Council remains committed to working with the Governor, the Legislature, and local courts and communities to ensure that every abused or neglected child finds a safe, stable, and permanent home with a loving family as quickly as possible.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Nicole Willis / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

House Resolution

No. 52

Introduced by Assembly Member Kalra
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Cooper, Cristina Garcia,
and Quirk Quirk, and Chu)

August 21, 2017

House Resolution No. 52—Relative to Diwali.

1 WHEREAS, Diwali, a festival of great significance to Indian
2 Americans and South Asian Americans, is celebrated annually by
3 Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains throughout the United States,
4 and across the globe; and
5 WHEREAS, There are nearly 2,300,000 Hindus in the United
6 States, approximately 1,250,000 of which are of Indian and South
7 Asian origin; and
8 WHEREAS, The word “Diwali” is a shortened version of the
9 Sanskrit term “Deepavali,” which means “a row of lamps”; and
10 WHEREAS, Diwali, one of the world’s oldest religious holidays,
11 brings together families, friends, and communities here in
12 California, the United States, and around the globe in goodwill,
13 peace, and a shared sense of renewal; and
14 WHEREAS, Diwali is a festival of lights during which
15 celebrants light small oil lamps, place them around the home, and
16 pray for health, knowledge, and peace; and
17 WHEREAS, Hindu celebrants of Diwali believe that the rows
18 of lamps symbolize the light of knowledge and truth within the
19 individual that signifies the destruction of all negative
20 qualities—violence, anger, jealousy, ignorance, greed, fear, or
21 suffering; in other words, Diwali celebrates the victory of good
22 over evil; and

1 WHEREAS, Diwali falls on Thursday, October 19 this year in
2 accordance with the lunar calendar and is celebrated by Hindus as
3 a day of thanksgiving for the homecoming of Lord Rama and the
4 beginning of the new year for many Hindus; and

5 WHEREAS, For Sikhs, Diwali is feted as the day that the sixth
6 founding Sikh Guru, or revered teacher, Guru Hargobind, was
7 released from captivity by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir; and

8 WHEREAS, For Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the
9 attainment of moksha, or liberation, by Mahavira, the last of the
10 Tirthankaras (the great teachers of Jain dharma), at the end of his
11 life in 527 B.C.; and

12 WHEREAS, For Buddhists, especially Newar Buddhists, Diwali
13 is commemorated as Ashok Vijayadashami, the day the great
14 Emperor Ashoka embraced Buddhism as his faith; now, therefore,
15 be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California,* That the
17 Assembly recognizes the religious and historical significance of
18 the festival of Diwali and in observance of Diwali, the festival of
19 lights, expresses its deepest respect for Indian Americans and the
20 Indian diaspora throughout the world on this significant occasion;
21 and be it further

22 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
23 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.
24

25
26 **REVISIONS:**
27 **Heading—Line 3.**
28

O

Date of Hearing: August 28, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
HR 52 (Kalra) – As Introduced August 21, 2017

SUBJECT: Diwali

SUMMARY: The Assembly recognizes the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali, and expresses its deepest respect for Indian Americans and the Indian diaspora throughout the world on this significant occasion. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Diwali, a festival of great significance to Indian Americans and South Asian Americans, is celebrated annually by Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains throughout the United States and across the world.
- 2) Diwali falls on Thursday, October 19 this year in accordance with the lunar calendar and is a festival of lights during which celebrants light small oil lamps, place them around the home, and pray for health, knowledge, and peace.
- 3) There are nearly 2,300,000 Hindus in the United States, approximately 1,250,000 of which are of Indian and South Asian origin.
- 4) Diwali, one of the world's oldest religious holidays, brings together families friends, and communities here in California, the United States, and around the globe in goodwill, peace, and shared sense of renewal.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Gujarati Samaj of Sacramento
Hindu American Foundation (HAF)
Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA, Inc.
Hindupedia – the Hindu Encyclopedia
Jain Center of Northern California, Inc. (JCNC)
Overseas Volunteer for a Better India
Sanatan Mandir

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Nicole Willis / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

August 24, 2017

The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chair
Assembly Rules Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 3016
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: HR 52 (Kalra) -- Support -- Festival of Diwali

Dear Assemblymember Cooley,

I write on behalf of the Gujarati Samaj of Sacramento to **support** HR 52, which would recognize the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali

India has an ancient history and Hinduism is the oldest religion of the world. Some practitioners refers to it as "The Eternal Tradition" or "eternal way" beyond human history. Diwali, or the festival of lights, is of great significance to Hindus and Indians, and widely celebrated by Gujaratis across the world.

Gujarati Samaj of Sacramento is one of the oldest regional associations in Sacramento. Gujarati Samaj of Sacramento started India Day in Sacramento and had an active role in forming IAS (Indian Association of Sacramento), with many GSS members forming/starting IAS. Gujarati Samaj of Sacramento was established in 1979. It is largest regional community in the region with more than 7000 people (Gujaratis) in Sacramento (Greater Sacramento). The majority of Gujaratis in the area are businessman, doctors, and engineers.

Gujarati Samaj of Sacramento strongly supports HR 52 to recognize the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali.

Regards,

Jaimin Upadhyay
President, Gujarati Samaj of Sacramento
E-Mail: gujsac@gmail.com
Website address: www.gujsac.org



August 21, 2017

The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chair
Assembly Rules Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 3016
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: HR 52 (Kalra) -- Support -- Festival of Diwali

Dear Assemblymember Cooley,

I write on behalf of the Hindu American Foundation (HAF), a national nonprofit advocacy organization for the Hindu American community, to express our strong **support** for HR 52.

HR 52 would recognize the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali, or Deepawali. Diwali is a festival of great significance to Indian Americans and South Asian Americans, and is celebrated annually by Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains of all ethnic backgrounds throughout California, the United States, and across the globe.

Diwali is a festival of lights, during which celebrants light small oil lamps and place them around the home. For Hindus, the rows of lamps symbolize the light of knowledge and truth within the individual that signifies the destruction of all negative qualities - be they violence, anger, jealousy, ignorance, greed, fear, or suffering; in other words, Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil. Diwali is also closely connected to the Hindu epic of the Ramayana and celebrates the homecoming of the Lord Rama.

Diwali also has a special significance for Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists across the world.

HR 52 helps foster an environment of inclusiveness and pluralism by officially acknowledging and honoring the religious and historical significance of Diwali. This will help increase inter-religious and cultural understanding about California's large Hindu American population and Indian American community.

Therefore, we strongly support HR 52. Please feel free to contact me with any questions by phone at 408.464.8715 or by email at samir@hafsite.org.

Sincerely,

Samir Kalra, Esq.
Senior Director
Hindu American Foundation



Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA, Inc.

A tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Federal ID 52-1647017



August 24, 2017

The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chair
Assembly Rules Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 3016
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: HR 52 (Kalra) -- Support -- Festival of Diwali

Dear Assemblymember Cooley,

I write on behalf of the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), the largest grass-root national nonprofit cultural organization for the Hindu American community, to express our strong support for HR 52.

HR 52 would recognize the religious and historical significance of the festival of Deepawali – more commonly known as Diwali. It is a festival of great significance to Indian Americans and South Asian Americans, and is celebrated annually by Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains of all ethnic backgrounds throughout California, the United States, and across the globe.

Diwali is a festival of lights, during which celebrants light small oil lamps and place them around the home. For Hindus, the rows of lamps symbolize the light of knowledge and truth within the individual that signifies the destruction of all negative qualities - be they violence, anger, jealousy, ignorance, greed, fear, or suffering; in other words, Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil. Diwali is also closely connected to the Hindu epic of the Ramayan and celebrates the homecoming of the Lord Ram.

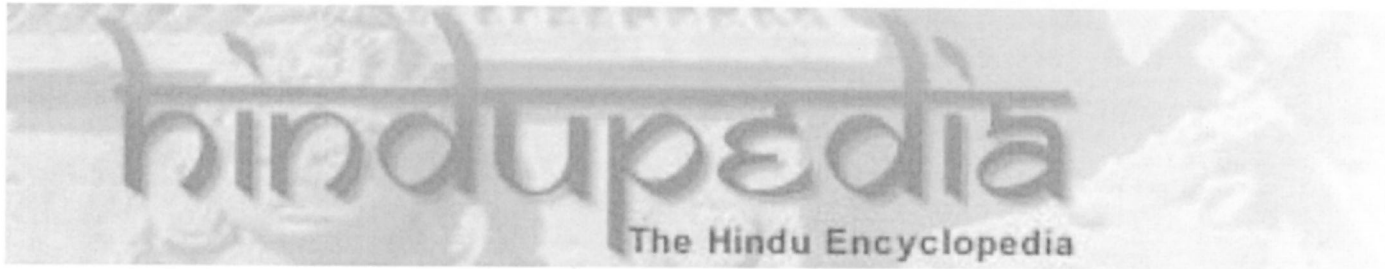
Diwali also has a special significance for Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists across the world.

HR 52 helps foster an environment of inclusiveness and pluralism by officially acknowledging and honoring the religious and historical significance of Diwali. This will help increase inter-religious and cultural understanding about California's Hindu American population and Indian American community.

Therefore, we strongly support HR 52. Please feel free to contact me with any questions by phone at 408.507.7643 or by email at tripathisan@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Sanjay Tripathi
Exec. Director, Western Region
Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh



Hindupedia, The Hinduism Encyclopedia
10367 Menhart Lane
Cupertino, CA 95014

The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chair
Assembly Rules Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 3016
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 23, 2017

RE: HR 52 (Kalra) -- Support -- Festival of Diwali

Dear Assemblymember Cooley,

I write on behalf of Hindupedia, a national non-profit educational organization building an online Encyclopedia of Hinduism to express our strong **support** for HR 52. To date, we have published 5,700 articles and receive over 80,000 visitors a month from across the world.

HR 52 would recognize the religious and historical significance of the festival of Deepavali (also spelled as Diwali). Diwali is a festival of great significance to Indian Americans (as well as Nepalese Americans and Bhutanese Americans and Americans from Bali in Indonesia) as well as those self-identifying as Hindu American (regardless of nation of origin or ethnicity). It is also celebrated by Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains throughout California, the United States, and across the globe.

Deepavali (Diwali) is a five day festival marking the new year. Each day has a different significance and different stories describing what that day commemorates. Depending on denomination of Sanatana Dharma, different significances and practices may be practiced. The five days are

1. Dhanteras (Dhan Trayodashi)
2. Naraka Chaturdasi / Roop Chaudas
3. Lakshmi Puja / Padwa (Varsha Pratipada) / Amavasya / Onam
4. Goverdhan Puja
5. Bhaiya-Duj

This five-day festival is celebrated in October-November, or Kartika by the Indian calendar. The festival is often referred to as Diwali which is a derivation of Deepavali - *deeps* means light, and *avali* means row - denoting the practice of placing rows of lamps during the festival.

A festival is a celebration that integrates spiritual, philosophical, religious and cultural aspects of human life. The spiritual aspect is based on the basic human instincts of joy and happiness. The philosophical aspect is based on the basic principle of the victory of good over evil in the constant struggle between them. The victory of good is to be celebrated. This is to remind ourselves and also our future generations that in the fight between good and evil, the good shall win. The religious aspect deals with the particular rituals of that festival. The stories that are related to the

[Back to Agenda](#)

particular manifestation of the God (Supreme Being) provide the religious strength for the festival. The cultural aspect deals with the customs, activities, food, dress, social interaction with family and friends etc.

Deepavali means "Row of Lamps". The festival is celebrated on New moon day that is a day of darkness (in the October/November timeframe). Several stories are associated with this festival. The major story is that of Lord Krishna killing the demon Narakasura. Also, "Naraka" means "Hell". The demon Narakasura had kept several good kings, citizens including thousands of women in dark prison. It was the helpless cry of these innocent people as prisoners that brought the Supreme Being in the manifestation of Lord Krishna to kill the demon Narakasura and free the prisoners. At the time of death demon Narakasura repented for the wicked deeds and asked for grace. Lord Krishna with mercy declared that let people celebrate the end of tyranny by lighting lamps to dispel the darkness. The day of Deepavali begins with special bath with oil, wearing new dress, ritual of worship, special foods and in the night lighting the lamps and firing crackers to celebrate through the sounds of joy. The family and friends meet on this day to wish greetings and celebrate together.

Also, on Deepavali day, the merchants observe the beginning of new yearly accounting. This signifies the review of the accounting both in their business and also in life. The revision of accounting signifies the "forget and forgive" principle and restarting our joyful relationship with family and friends. Goddess Lakshmi represents the wealth both materialistic and spiritual. On Deepavali, worship of Goddess Lakshmi is also carried out for Her blessings on restarting our worldly and spiritual accounting.

Also, the return of Lord Sri Rama to Ayodhya after killing the demon Ravana (as described in the Epic Ramayana) is celebrated on this day. The victorious return of Lord Sri Rama signifies the spiritual fulfillment of the journey (of seeking Goal of life) after destroying the evil forces and strengthening the divine forces.

Thus we see that Deepavali encompasses all domains of human life namely physical, emotional, analytical and spiritual. The celebration includes both the individual and societal levels. Thus the purpose of festivals is to provide enlightenment, education and joy at the most basic levels of human experience.

Twinkling oil lamps or diyas light up every home and firework displays are common all across the India and the US (where fireworks are allowed). The Goddess Lakshmi (consort of Vishnu), who is the symbol of wealth and prosperity, is also worshipped on this day. This festive occasion also marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year and Lord Ganesha, the elephant-headed God, the symbol of auspiciousness and wisdom, is worshipped in most Hindu homes. Houses across the country are scrubbed till they are spotlessly clean. To enhance their new look, they are decorated with bright paper lanterns, diyas and flowers, while kids embellish the aangan (courtyard) and walls with traditional aesthetic designs and patterns called rangolis. New clothes are bought and the family gathers together to offer prayers, distribute sweets and light up their homes. Crackers and fireworks illuminate the sky and people pray for a prosperous coming year. For Hindus from the Indian state of West Bengal, the Deepavali festival is celebrated as Kali Pooja and Kali, Shiva's consort is worshipped on this day.

HR 52 helps foster an environment of inclusiveness and pluralism by officially acknowledging and honoring the religious and historical significance of Diwali. This will help increase inter-religious and cultural understanding about California's large Hindu American population and Indian American community.

Therefore, we strongly support HR 52. Please feel free to contact me with any questions by phone at 203-794-6725 or by email at krishna@hindupedia.com

Sincerely,



Krishna Maheshwari
President, Hindupedia
www.hindupedia.com

[Back to Agenda](#)



JAIN CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.

722 South Main Street, Milpitas, CA 95035

(408) 262-6242 <http://www.jcnc.org>

A California Non-Profit Religious Corporation Federal Tax ID 94-277-8859

August 25, 2017

The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chair

Assembly Rules Committee

State Capitol Building, Room 3016 - Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: HR 52 (Kalra) -- Support -- Festival of Diwali

Dear Assemblymember Cooley,

I write on behalf of the Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC), a religious nonprofit corporation (Temple) for the Jain American community in San Francisco Bay Area to express our firm support for HR 52.

HR 52 would recognize the spiritual and historical significance of the festival of Diwali, or Deepawali. Diwali is a festival of outstanding import to Indian Americans and South Asian Americans, and is celebrated every year by Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains of all cultural backgrounds throughout California, the United States, and across the world.

For Jains, Diwali commemorates the day of remembrance of the attainment of Moksha, or liberation, by Mahavira, the final of the Tirthankaras (the great teachers of Jain Dharma), at the close of his liveliness in 527 B.C.. Jains light lamps on Diwali to illuminate Mahavira's teachings of non-violence (Ahimsa), non-absolutism) and non-possessiveness. This principle of nonviolence is as relevant today and has influenced the world through nonviolence movement of Mahatma Gandhi.

HR 52 helps foster an environment of inclusiveness and pluralism by officially recognizing and respecting the religious and historical significance of Diwali. This will help increase inter-religious and cultural understanding about California's large Hindu American population and the Indian American community.

Therefore, we strongly support HR 52. Please feel free to contact us with any questions by phone at 408.373-3564 or by email at girish.shah@jaina.org or president@jnc.org

Respectfully,

Yogesh Bapna – President
Jain Center of Northern California

CC: Girish Shah, Board Member, Jain Center of Northern California

[Back to Agenda](#)

Overseas Volunteer for a Better India

A Global Platform for Positive Change



August 24, 2017

The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chair
Assembly Rules Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 3016
Sacramento, CA 95814
RE: HR 52 (Kalra) -- Support -- Festival of Diwali

Dear Assemblymember Cooley,

I write on behalf of the Overseas Volunteers for Better India (OVBI), a national nonprofit for the Indian American community, to express our strong support for HR 52.

OVBI was launched in 2013 to support many service projects in India - river rejuvenation, saving girls from human trafficking, skills development among rural youth to name a few. It also serves to promote strong Indian community in the United States by promoting cultural festivals, education and awareness campaigns, as well as community services by providing a strong support structure for victims of hate crimes, domestic violence and racial discrimination.

HR 52 would recognize the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali, or Deepawali. Diwali is a festival of great significance to Indian Americans and South Asian Americans, and is celebrated annually by Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains of all ethnic backgrounds throughout California, the United States, and across the globe.

Diwali is a festival of lights, during which celebrants light small oil lamps and place them around the home. For Hindus, the rows of lamps symbolize the light of knowledge and truth within the individual that signifies the destruction of all negative qualities - be they violence, anger, jealousy, ignorance, greed, fear, or suffering; in other words, Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil. Diwali is also closely connected to the Hindu epic of the Ramayana and celebrates the homecoming of the Lord Rama.

Diwali also has a special significance for Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists across the world. HR 52 helps foster an environment of inclusiveness and pluralism by officially acknowledging and honoring the religious and historical significance of Diwali. This will help increase inter-religious and cultural understanding about California's large Hindu American population and Indian American community. Therefore, we strongly support HR 52.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions by phone at 202.468.9474 or by email at satej.chaudhary@overseasvbi.org.

Sincerely,

S. Chaudhary

Satej Chaudhary, President
Overseas Volunteer for Better India

Overseas Volunteer for a Better India, 1410 Gardenia Street, IRVING, TX 75063 T: 732.354.1248
EMAIL: invites@overseasvbi.org WWW.OVERSEASVBI.ORG

Sanatan Mandir

Shree Sanatan Dharam Ramayan Mandli of Bay Area, Inc.

501(C) (3) Religious Corporation ID: 94-3070565

205 Angus Avenue West, San Bruno, CA 94066

Phone: (650)794-1294

www.sanatanmandirsanbruno.com email: sanatanmandir1@yahoo.com

August 24, 2017

The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chair
Assembly Rules Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 3016
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Assembly member Cooley,

I write on behalf of the Sanatan Mandir, a nonprofit religious organization for the Hindu community, to express our strong **support** for HR 52.

HR 52 would recognize the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali, or Deepawali. Diwali is a festival of great significance to Indian American and South Asian Americans, and is celebrated annually by Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains of all ethnic backgrounds throughout California, the United States, and across the globe.

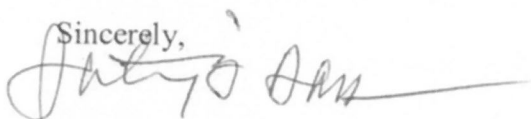
Diwali is a festival of lights, during which celebrants light small oil lamps and place them around the home. For Hindus, the rows of lamps symbolize the light of knowledge and truth within the individual that signifies the destruction of all negative qualities-be they violence, anger, jealousy, ignorance, greed, fear, or suffering; in other words, Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil. Diwali is also closely connected to the Hindu epic of the Ramayana and celebrates the homecoming of the Lord Rama.

Diwali also has a special significance for Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists across the world.

HR 52 helps foster an environment of inclusiveness and pluralism by officially acknowledging and honoring the religious and historical significance of Diwali. This will help increase inter-religious and cultural understanding about California's large Hindu American population and Indian American community.

Therefore, we strongly support HR 52. Please feel free to contact me with any questions by phone at 510.305.5392 or by email at sanatanmandir1@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,



Satish Datt
President

House Resolution

No. 54

Introduced by Assembly Member Irwin

August 21, 2017

House Resolution No. 54—Relative to #ABLEtoSave Month.

1 WHEREAS, According to the United States census,
2 approximately 56.7 million people, or 19 percent of the United
3 States population, have a disability; and

4 WHEREAS, Many individuals with disabilities rely on federal
5 benefits, such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income, to
6 foster their independence, maintain their health, support their
7 employment, participate in their communities, and enhance their
8 quality of life; and

9 WHEREAS, Before the passage of the federal Stephen Beck,
10 Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act in 2014,
11 millions of individuals with disabilities were unable to save more
12 than \$2,000 in assets without jeopardizing their eligibility for
13 critical federal benefits; and

14 WHEREAS, More than 20 states have established ABLE
15 programs where millions of individuals with disabilities can save
16 money in a tax-exempt ABLE account that does not count toward
17 the \$2,000 asset cap; and

18 WHEREAS, Many individuals with disabilities and their families
19 are unaware of the life-changing potential of ABLE accounts or
20 are misinformed about the rules regarding these accounts; and

21 WHEREAS, The ABLE National Resource Center, a
22 collaborative of more than 25 national disability organizations
23 whose goal is to provide consistent, reliable information about the
24 benefits of an ABLE account, has developed a nationwide

1 campaign, #ABLEtoSave, to educate individuals with disabilities
2 and their families, the financial sector, and other stakeholders about
3 the potential positive impact of ABLE accounts on the lives of
4 millions of Americans with disabilities; and

5 WHEREAS, The goal of the #ABLEtoSave campaign is to
6 enhance awareness of ABLE accounts as a financial savings tool
7 and to increase the number of ABLE accounts opened throughout
8 the country; now, therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*
10 *Assembly declares August 2017 as #ABLEtoSave Month; and be*
11 *it further*

12 *Resolved, The establishment of #ABLEtoSave Month will*
13 *encourage public, consumer, community-based, and private sector*
14 *organizations across California to provide information and*
15 *resources about ABLE accounts to Californians; and be it further*

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

O

Date of Hearing: August 28, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
HR 54 (Irwin) – As Introduced August 21, 2017

SUBJECT: #ABLEtoSave Month

SUMMARY: Declares August 2017 as #ABLEtoSave Month and encourages public, consumer, community-based, and private sector organizations across California to provide information and resources about ABLÉ accounts to Californians. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) According to the United States census, approximately 56.7 million people, or 19 percent of the United States population, have a disability.
- 2) Many individuals with disabilities rely on federal benefits, such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income, to foster their independence, maintain their health, support their employment, participate in their communities, and enhance their quality of life.
- 3) Before the passage of the federal Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act in 2014, millions of individuals with disabilities were unable to save more than \$2,000 in assets without jeopardizing their eligibility for critical federal benefits.
- 4) More than 20 states have established ABLÉ programs where millions of individuals with disabilities can save money in a tax-exempt ABLÉ account that does not count toward the \$2,000 asset cap.
- 5) The ABLÉ National Resource Center, a collaborative of more than 25 national disability organizations whose goal is to provide consistent, reliable information about the benefits of an ABLÉ account, has developed a nationwide campaign, #ABLEtoSave, to educate individuals with disabilities and their families, the financial sector, and other stakeholders about the potential positive impact of ABLÉ accounts on the lives of millions of Americans with disabilities.
- 6) The goal of the #ABLEtoSave campaign is to enhance awareness of ABLÉ accounts as a financial savings tool and to increase the number of ABLÉ accounts opened throughout the country.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Nicole Willis / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

House Resolution

No. 57

Introduced by Assembly Member Thurmond

August 23, 2017

House Resolution No. 57—Relative to white supremacy.

1 WHEREAS, On August 12, 2017, white supremacists marched
2 with Confederate flags and swastikas, chanted anti-Semitic and
3 hateful messages, brandished weapons and torches, and assembled
4 unlawfully to protest the removal of a Confederate statue in
5 Charlottesville, Virginia; and

6 WHEREAS, Counterprotesters gathered to object to the so-called
7 “Unite the Right” rally, and to stand up for diversity and the
8 inclusive values of this country; and

9 WHEREAS, James Alex Fields slammed his car into a crowd
10 of counterprotesters, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring
11 at least 19 others; and

12 WHEREAS, A police helicopter monitoring the protest also
13 crashed, resulting in the deaths of Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen III and
14 Trooper-Pilot Berke M. M. Bates; and

15 WHEREAS, The hate and violence in Charlottesville was
16 celebrated on Nazi Web sites and social media accounts for the
17 world to see; and

18 WHEREAS, President of the United States Donald Trump failed
19 in his initial response to admonish or name the neo-Nazis, Ku Klux
20 Klan, and white supremacists. Instead, he said that there was blame
21 on “many sides”; and

22 WHEREAS, President Trump gave moral equivalency to the
23 white supremacists who descended on Charlottesville with an

1 intent to commit violence, with counterprotesters defending the
2 values of the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, President Trump said that there were “very fine”
4 people among those who carried Nazi and Confederate flags,
5 chanted anti-Semitic and racist messages, and marched proudly
6 alongside white-robed Klansmen, white supremacist Richard
7 Spencer, and former Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan David
8 Duke; and

9 WHEREAS, President Trump expressed skepticism that the
10 murder of Heather Heyer and the injury of 19 people by James
11 Alex Fields was an act of domestic terrorism; and

12 WHEREAS, President Trump has not offered reassurances to
13 the millions of Americans of color whose lives are under constant
14 threat by white supremacists; and

15 WHEREAS, President Trump showed a complete lack of
16 understanding about the racially motivated and unjust history of
17 the Confederate movement by comparing Robert E. Lee to George
18 Washington; and

19 WHEREAS, President Trump expressed sadness over the
20 removal of “beautiful statues and monuments” that honor the
21 Confederates who were willing to fight their own country to
22 maintain slavery and their racist institutions; and

23 WHEREAS, President Trump sanctioned white supremacy and
24 hatred across this country by failing to condemn these acts of
25 violence and racism, and emboldened these groups into further
26 action; and

27 WHEREAS, Dozens more protests and rallies are now planned
28 for cities across the United States with similar messages and goals,
29 and that are likely to end in more violence; and

30 WHEREAS, There can be absolutely no tolerance for white
31 supremacy, racism, and bigotry in the United States of America;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, The people of the United States of America look
34 to their President for moral leadership in a nation where all people
35 are created equal, and President Trump has proven that he is unfit
36 to be a moral leader; and

37 WHEREAS, This legislative body recognizes the value of the
38 diversity of our states and vehemently objects to the threat that
39 white supremacy poses to the residents of California; and

1 WHEREAS, California’s diversity and equality is our defining
2 strength and has helped make California the largest economy in
3 the country, and one of the largest economies in the world; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California,* That the
6 Assembly supports Congress’ efforts to censure President Donald
7 Trump, calls upon President Donald Trump to publicly apologize
8 to all Americans for his racist and bigoted behavior, and calls upon
9 all other state legislatures to ask the same of Congress and the
10 President; and be it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: August 28, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
HR 57 (Thurmond) – As Introduced August 23, 2017

SUBJECT: White supremacy

SUMMARY: Supports Congress’ efforts to censure President Donald Trump, calls upon the President to publicly apologize to all Americans for his racist and bigoted behavior, and calls upon all other state legislatures to ask the same of Congress and the President. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) On August 12, 2017, white supremacists marched with Confederate flags and swastikas, chanted anti-Semitic and hateful messages, brandished weapons and torches, and assembled unlawfully to protest the removal of a Confederate statue in Charlottesville, Virginia.
- 2) Counter protesters gathered to object to the so-called “Unite the Right” rally, and to stand up for diversity and the inclusive values of this country.
- 3) James Alex Fields slammed his car into a crowd of counter protesters, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring at least 19 others. A police helicopter monitoring the protest also crashed, resulting in the deaths of Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen III and Trooper-Pilot Berke M. M. Bates.
- 4) The hate and violence in Charlottesville was celebrated on Nazi Web sites and social media accounts for the world to see.
- 5) President Trump failed in his initial response to admonish the white supremacists. Instead, he said that there was blame on “many sides” and that there were “very fine” people among those who carried Nazi and Confederate flags.
- 6) Dozens more protests and rallies are now planned for cities across the United States with similar messages and goals, and that are likely to end in more violence.
- 7) There can be absolutely no tolerance for white supremacy, racism, and bigotry in the United States of America.
- 8) The people of this country look to their President for moral leadership in a nation where all people are created equal.
- 9) California’s diversity and equality is our defining strength and has helped make California the largest economy in the country, and one of the largest economies in the world.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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