



STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
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(916) 319-2800  
FAX (916) 319-2810

Assembly  
California Legislature  
**Committee on Rules**

KEN COOLEY  
CHAIR

VICE CHAIR  
CUNNINGHAM, JORDAN

MEMBERS  
CARRILLO, WENDY  
CERVANTES, SABRINA  
FRIEDMAN, LAURA  
GALLAGHER, JAMES  
GRAYSON, TIMOTHY S.  
MAYES, CHAD  
NAZARIAN, ADRIN  
SALAS, JR. RUDY  
WALDRON, MARIE

FONG, VINCE (R-ALT)  
LEVINE, MARC (D-ALT)  
REYES, ELOISE GÓMEZ (D-ALT)

Monday, May 14, 2018  
10 minutes prior to Session  
State Capitol, Room 3162

CONSENT AGENDA

**BILL REFERRALS**

1. Consent Bill Referrals

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**RESOLUTIONS**

- |                         |  |                         |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 2. ACR-174 (Gipson)     | Relative to Hepatitis Awareness Month and Hepatitis Testing Day. | <a href="#">Page 4</a>  |
| 3. ACR-216 (Muratsuchi) | Relative to 529 College Savings Day.                             | <a href="#">Page 9</a>  |
| 4. ACR-221 (Bigelow)    | Relative to California Fairgrounds Appreciation Month.           | <a href="#">Page 16</a> |
| 5. ACR-233 (Reyes)      | Relative to Ramadan.   | <a href="#">Page 19</a> |
| 6. ACR-237 (Cooley)     | Relative to Foster Care Month.                                   | <a href="#">Page 22</a> |
| 7. AJR-35 (Levine)      | Relative to Polish law: Holocaust speech.                        | <a href="#">Page 25</a> |
| 8. SCR-127 (Beall)      | Relative to National Mental Health Awareness Month.              | <a href="#">Page 31</a> |
| 9. SCR-137 (Lara)       | Relative to Foster Care Month.                                   | <a href="#">Page 37</a> |



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ADRIN NAZARIAN  
RUDY SALAS  
MARIE WALDRON

MARC LEVINE (D-ALT.)  
ELOISE GÓMEZ REYES (D-ALT.)  
VINCE FONG (R-ALT.)

# Memo

**To:** Rules Committee Members  
**From:** Michael Erke, Bill Referral Consultant  
**Date:** 5/11/18  
**Re:** Consent Bill Referrals

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

REFERRAL OF BILLS TO COMMITTEE

05/14/2018

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

Assembly Bill No.	Committee:
<u>ACR 235</u>	RLS.
<u>ACR 236</u>	TRANS.
<u>ACR 237</u>	RLS.
<u>ACR 238</u>	RLS.
<u>HR 108</u>	RLS.

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 8, 2018

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2017–18 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 174**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Gipson**

February 13, 2018

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 174—Relative to Hepatitis Awareness Month and Hepatitis Testing Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 174, as amended, Gipson. Hepatitis Awareness Month and Hepatitis Testing Day.

This measure would proclaim the month of May 2018 as Hepatitis Awareness Month and May 19, 2018, as Hepatitis Testing Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Liver cancer and liver disease related to hepatitis  
2 B and C are two of the leading killers in California; and  
3 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is the most prevalent bloodborne  
4 disease in the United States and in California; and  
5 WHEREAS, Early detection of hepatitis B and C infections  
6 promotes effective management or treatment of these infections,  
7 preventing disability, loss of productivity and income, and allowing  
8 people to live full, satisfying, and productive lives; and  
9 WHEREAS, An undetected and untreated hepatitis B or C  
10 infection can lead to disability or death; and  
11 WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 400,737 Californians  
12 with chronic hepatitis C infection do not know they are infected,  
13 and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer,  
14 or liver failure; and

98

1 WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 350,000 California  
2 residents with hepatitis B infection do not know they are infected,  
3 and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer,  
4 or liver failure; and

5 WHEREAS, Untreated hepatitis B and C infections are the  
6 leading causes of liver failure requiring *a* liver transplant; and

7 WHEREAS, While deaths from other notifiable infectious  
8 diseases have steadily declined over the past decade, deaths from  
9 hepatitis C in the United States continue to rise, and the hepatitis  
10 C-related death toll now exceeds all other nationally notifiable  
11 infectious conditions combined; and

12 WHEREAS, Between 2011 and 2015, rates of newly reported  
13 hepatitis C infections increased 37 percent among females between  
14 20 and 29 years of age, and 55 percent among males in that age  
15 ~~age~~, *range*, and increased 40 percent among males between 15  
16 and 19 years of age; and

17 WHEREAS, Each year, hepatitis B and C cause nearly 1.5  
18 million deaths worldwide—more than HIV, tuberculosis, and  
19 malaria; and

20 WHEREAS, On March 28, 2017, the National Academies of  
21 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released “A National Strategy  
22 for the Elimination of Hepatitis B and C: Phase Two Report”  
23 outlining how the United States can save 90,000 lives and eliminate  
24 hepatitis B and C by 2030; and

25 WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Disease Control and  
26 Prevention released updated guidelines calling for baby  
27 boomers—everyone born between 1945 and 1965—to receive a  
28 one-time hepatitis C test, which would save over 100,000 lives;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, In 2013, the United States Preventive Services  
31 Task Force (USPSTF) issued a Grade B rating for screening for  
32 hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in persons at high risk for  
33 infection and adults born between 1945 and 1965; and

34 WHEREAS, Baby boomers make up 30 percent of California’s  
35 adult population, and African American baby boomers are twice  
36 as likely to have hepatitis C as other baby boomers; and

37 WHEREAS, In 2009, the USPSTF issued a Grade A rating for  
38 screening pregnant women for the hepatitis B virus (HBV)  
39 infection during their first prenatal visit; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2014, the USPSTF issued a Grade B rating for  
2 screening people born in countries where hepatitis B is common,  
3 United States-born people who were not vaccinated against  
4 hepatitis B when they were babies and whose parents come from  
5 countries where hepatitis B is common, and other people at risk  
6 for hepatitis B; and

7 WHEREAS, There is a vaccine for the prevention of hepatitis  
8 B—the first proven, low-cost vaccination against any form of  
9 cancer made available to Americans; and

10 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B is most prevalent among people of  
11 Asian and Pacific Islander descent, and one-third of Americans of  
12 Asian and Pacific Islander descent live in California; and

13 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B-related and hepatitis C-related  
14 hospitalization charges totaled \$2.3 billion in 2010 in California,  
15 mostly paid for by tax-supported public health insurers; and

16 WHEREAS, New medications can cure hepatitis C in over 90  
17 percent of people who are linked to and retained in care and  
18 treatment; and

19 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B can be treated effectively with proper  
20 medical management and may be curable in the near future; and

21 WHEREAS, The Legislature will continue to work to increase  
22 the affordability of, and access to, care, treatment, and cures for  
23 hepatitis; and

24 WHEREAS, Hepatitis awareness education campaigns and  
25 accessible screening for hepatitis B and C, along with appropriate  
26 treatment, can reduce the damage from hepatitis B and C viral  
27 infection to individuals and to our community, financially, as well  
28 as physically and emotionally; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims May  
31 2018 as Hepatitis Awareness Month and May 19, 2018, as Hepatitis  
32 Testing Day; and be it further

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

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Date of Hearing: May 14, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Ken Cooley, Chair  
ACR 174 (Gipson) – As Amended May 8, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Hepatitis Awareness Month and Hepatitis Testing Day

**SUMMARY:** Proclaims the month of May 2018 as Hepatitis Awareness Month and May 19, 2018, as Hepatitis Testing Day. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Liver cancer and liver disease related to hepatitis B and C are two of the leading killers in California and hepatitis C is the most prevalent bloodborne disease in the United States and California.
- 2) Early detection of hepatitis B and C infections promotes effective management or treatment of these infections, preventing disability, loss of productivity and income, and allowing people to live full, satisfying, and productive lives. Left undetected and untreated, hepatitis B or C infection can lead to disability or death.
- 3) The majority of the estimated 400,737 Californians with chronic hepatitis C infection do not know they are infected, and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer, or liver failure.
- 4) The majority of the estimated 350,000 California residents with hepatitis B infection do not know they are infected, and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer, or liver failure.
- 5) While deaths from other notifiable infectious diseases have steadily declined over the past decade, deaths from hepatitis C in the United States continue to rise, and the hepatitis C related death toll now exceeds all other nationally notifiable infectious conditions combined.
- 6) Each year, hepatitis B and C cause nearly 1.5 million deaths worldwide, more than HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria.
- 7) On March 28, 2017, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released “A National Strategy for the Elimination of Hepatitis B and C: Phase Two Report” outlining how the United States can save 90,000 lives and eliminate hepatitis B and C by 2030.
- 8) Hepatitis awareness education campaigns and accessible screening for hepatitis B and C, along with appropriate treatment, can reduce the damage from hepatitis B and C viral infection to individuals and to our community, financially, as well as physically and emotionally.

**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. 216**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Muratsuchi and McCarty**

April 9, 2018

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 216—Relative to 529 College Savings Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 216, as introduced, Muratsuchi. 529 College Savings Day.

This measure would designate May 29, 2018, as 529 College Savings Day, to raise awareness about the importance of saving for college with the help of 529 college savings plans.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, 529 college savings plans are important tools for  
2 California families that want to save for their children’s college  
3 education, offering a diverse range of investment options,  
4 tax-deferred growth, and withdrawals free of state and federal  
5 taxes when those withdrawals are used for qualified higher  
6 education expenses such as tuition, fees, books, computer  
7 equipment, certain room and board costs, and required supplies;  
8 and  
9 WHEREAS, While the first college savings plans were  
10 developed by states in 1988 as innovative programs designed to  
11 help families and students save for higher education expenses, it  
12 was not until the enactment of Section 529 of the Internal Revenue  
13 Code by Congress in 1996 that college savings plans began to  
14 rapidly gain popularity across the country; and

1 WHEREAS, Today, 49 states and the District of Columbia offer  
2 529 college savings plans, 12.9 million 529 accounts have been  
3 opened, more than \$294 billion have been saved for future higher  
4 education expenses, and more than one million students nationwide  
5 have withdrawn funds from 529 accounts to help pay higher  
6 education expenses; and

7 WHEREAS, The ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan, which  
8 has served as California’s official state-sponsored 529 college  
9 savings plan since its launch in 1999, has grown to more than \$8.4  
10 billion in total plan assets held in over 303,000 ScholarShare 529  
11 accounts; and

12 WHEREAS, The ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan has  
13 helped students meet their higher education goals with over \$435  
14 million withdrawn in 2017 for qualified higher education expenses  
15 at over 1,206 colleges and universities; and

16 WHEREAS, In California, from 2006–07 through 2016–17,  
17 tuition rates at the University of California, the California State  
18 University, and the California Community Colleges increased 100  
19 percent, 117 percent, and 130 percent, respectively, and over the  
20 past 40 years, tuition rates have consistently increased at two to  
21 three times the rate of inflation every year; and

22 WHEREAS, Federal financial aid awards have shifted away  
23 from student grants to providing access to guaranteed student loans  
24 so that, today, nearly 61 percent of all federal financial aid is in  
25 the form of loans, substantially increasing the number of college  
26 graduates who will face the burden of repaying significant student  
27 loan debt upon entering the workforce; and

28 WHEREAS, According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New  
29 York, student loan debt has now reached \$1.4 trillion nationally,  
30 which rose from \$620 billion in 2008; and

31 WHEREAS, When Americans are burdened with student loan  
32 debt, they are not able to buy homes, cars, and other products that  
33 boost our economy; and

34 WHEREAS, College savings plans, such as the ScholarShare  
35 529 College Savings Plan, help families to limit or eliminate future  
36 student loan debt by helping them save for future higher education  
37 expenses; and

38 WHEREAS, The contributions families make today pay off in  
39 the form of an increased earning potential for their children in the  
40 future, with a college graduate earning 50 percent more than a high

1 school graduate according to the United States Census Bureau;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, May 29th is recognized nationally as 529 College  
4 Savings Day to help raise awareness across the country of the  
5 importance of saving for college with the help of 529 college  
6 savings plans; now, therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
8 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
9 hereby proclaims May 29, 2018, as 529 College Savings Day; and  
10 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: May 14, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Ken Cooley, Chair  
ACR 216 (Muratsuchi) – As Introduced April 9, 2018

**SUBJECT:** 529 College Savings Day

**SUMMARY:** Designates May 29, 2018, as 529 College Savings Day, to raise awareness about the importance of saving for college with the help of 529 college savings plans. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) 529 college savings plans are important tools for California families that want to save for their children's college education, offering a diverse range of investment options, tax-deferred growth, and withdrawals free of state and federal taxes when those withdrawals are used for qualified higher education expenses such as tuition, fees, books, computer equipment, certain room and board costs, and required supplies.
- 2) The ScholarShare College Savings Plan, which has served as California's official state-sponsored 529 college savings plan since its launch in 1999, has grown to more than \$8.4 billion in total plan assets held in over 303,000 ScholarShare 529 accounts.
- 3) Today, 49 states and the District of Columbia offer 529 college savings plans, 12.9 million 529 accounts have been opened, more than \$294 billion have been saved for future higher education expenses, and more than one million students nationwide have withdrawn funds from 529 accounts to help pay higher education expenses.
- 4) Federal financial aid awards have shifted away from student grants to providing access to guaranteed student loans so that, today, nearly 61 percent of all federal financial aid is in the form of loans, substantially increasing the number of college graduates who will face the burden of repaying significant student loan debt upon entering the workforce.
- 5) According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, student loan debt has now reached \$1.4 trillion nationally, which rose from \$620 billion in 2008.
- 6) Americans burdened with student loan debt are not able to buy homes, cars, and other products that boost our economy.
- 7) College savings plans, such as the ScholarShare College Savings Plan, help families to limit or eliminate future student loan debt by helping them save for future higher education expenses.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

John Chiang, California State Treasurer

**Opposition**

None on file

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



JOHN CHIANG  
TREASURER  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

May 8, 2018

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

RE: Support for Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 216

Dear Chair Cooley:

As the Chair of the ScholarShare Investment Board, I write to respectfully request your support for Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 216 by Assemblymembers Al Muratsuchi and Kevin McCarty which establishes May 29<sup>th</sup> as 529 College Savings Day. I seek your assistance in raising awareness about the importance of saving for college and the significant role that 529 college savings plans can play in that process.

Over the past 40 years, college tuition rates have been consistently increasing at two to three times the rate of inflation each year. During this same period of time, financial aid funding in general has shifted away from student grants towards guaranteed student loans. Today, 53% of California college seniors graduate with student loan debt. When Californians are burdened with student loan debt at levels such as these, they are hindered in their ability to purchase homes, cars, and other products that help boost our economy. Although most families expect their child to go to college, many don't have a plan for paying for it; less than 4 in 10 families have created a plan to pay for all years of college.

ScholarShare 529, which serves as California's official state-sponsored 529 college savings plan, provides families with a valuable tool that offers a diverse set of low-cost investment options, tax-deferred growth, and withdrawals free from state and federal taxes when used for qualified higher education expenses, such as tuition and fees, books, certain room and board costs, computer equipment, and other required supplies.

Since its launch in 1999, ScholarShare 529 has grown to more than 303,000 accounts with over \$8.4 billion in total plan assets. More importantly, ScholarShare 529

has helped families meet their higher education needs with more than \$435 million withdrawn by families in 2017 for qualified higher education expenses.

To promote College Savings Day and encourage a greater number of California families to start saving for college now, ScholarShare 529 will be offering a \$50 contribution to families that open a new ScholarShare 529 account on May 29 through June 1. Eligible individuals must open the account with a minimum \$50 initial deposit and make automatic monthly contributions at the minimum amount of \$25 for at least six consecutive months.

If you are interested in helping promote College Savings Day, my office would be happy to provide your staff with promotional materials, such as flyers, brochures, sample articles for e-newsletters, and a link to the ScholarShare 529 website. Our staff can be reached at (916) 651-6380 or [scholarshare@treasurer.ca.gov](mailto:scholarshare@treasurer.ca.gov). In addition, we welcome the opportunity to co-sponsor an event, such as a town hall or workshop, in your district at any time throughout the year to promote saving for college.

By recognizing May 29<sup>th</sup> as College Savings Day, ACR 216 will undoubtedly help more California families become aware of the importance of saving for future higher education expenses and utilizing 529 college savings plans, such as ScholarShare 529, to reduce the amount of money their loved ones borrow while pursuing their academic goals.

We hope that we can count on your support for ACR 216 and look forward to the opportunity to partner with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Chiang", is written over a large, stylized, looped graphic element that resembles a signature flourish or a large letter "J".

JOHN CHIANG  
California State Treasurer

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 221**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Bigelow**

April 16, 2018

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 221—Relative to California Fairgrounds Appreciation Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 221, as introduced, Bigelow. California Fairgrounds Appreciation Month.

This measure would designate the month of May 2018 as California Fairgrounds Appreciation Month and would extend the Legislature’s warmest regards and appreciation to the thousands of volunteers, fair directors, staff, business supporters, and sponsors who keep the network of California state fairgrounds strong, vibrant, relevant, and successful.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California’s 76 state fairgrounds serve the entire
- 2 state, from the County of San Diego to Del Norte, and from the
- 3 County of Monterey to Mariposa; and
- 4 WHEREAS, California state fairgrounds attracted over 20
- 5 million visitors for fairs and events in 2016; and
- 6 WHEREAS, California counties enjoy the year-round economic,
- 7 recreational, cultural, and social impacts of the fairgrounds; and
- 8 WHEREAS, California state fairgrounds expend and generate
- 9 millions of new dollars for nonprofit organizations, youth
- 10 organizations, cities and counties, small businesses, and the state’s
- 11 General Fund; and



1 WHEREAS, California state fairgrounds, after years of  
2 fire-related emergency use during the drought years, were again  
3 pressed into service for flood evacuations, including the Oroville  
4 Dam evacuations; and

5 WHEREAS, California state fairgrounds provide public facilities  
6 for animals, pets, and livestock during good times and bad; and

7 WHEREAS, California’s 76 state fairgrounds continue to serve  
8 as the social and economic hub of their respective communities;  
9 now, therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
11 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the  
12 month of May 2018 as California Fairgrounds Appreciation Month  
13 in appreciation for the services provided to California by the 76  
14 fairgrounds in the state; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Legislature extends its warmest regards and  
16 appreciation to the thousands of volunteers, fair directors, staff,  
17 business supporters, and sponsors who keep the network of  
18 California state fairgrounds strong, vibrant, relevant, and  
19 successful; and be it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: May 14, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Ken Cooley, Chair  
ACR 221 (Bigelow) – As Introduced April 16, 2018

**SUBJECT:** California Fairgrounds Appreciation Month.

**SUMMARY:** Designates the month of May 2018 as California Fairgrounds Appreciation Month and extends the Legislature’s warmest regards and appreciation to the thousands of volunteers, fair directors, staff, business supporters, and sponsors who keep the California fairgrounds strong, vibrant, relevant, and successful. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) California’s 76 fairgrounds serve the entire state, from the County of San Diego to Del Norte, and from the County of Monterey to Mariposa. These fairgrounds attracted over 20 million visitors for fairs and events in 2016.
- 2) California’s counties enjoy the year-round economic, recreational, cultural, and social impacts of the fairgrounds.
- 3) California state fairgrounds expend and generate millions of new dollars for nonprofit organizations, youth organizations, cities and counties, small businesses, and the state’s General Fund.
- 4) California fairgrounds, after years of fire-related emergency use during the drought times, were again pressed into service for flood evacuations, including the Oroville Dam evacuations.
- 5) These 76 fairgrounds continue to serve as the social and economic hub of their respective communities and also provide public facilities for animals, pets, and livestock during good times and bad.

**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. 233**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Reyes and Arambula  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Cervantes, Limón, and Mullin)  
(Coauthor: Senator Newman)**

May 2, 2018

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 233—Relative to Ramadan.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 233, as introduced, Reyes. Ramadan.

This measure would acknowledge the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and express the Legislature’s respect to Muslims across California and throughout the world on this occasion.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Islam is one of the world’s major religions and  
2 part of our shared human heritage; and  
3 WHEREAS, California’s Muslim community is one of the most  
4 diverse in the nation with ethnic and cultural backgrounds that  
5 span the globe; and  
6 WHEREAS, Muslims have a long history in the United States,  
7 spanning back to the slave trade, in which 10 to 15 percent of the  
8 enslaved African woman and men were said to be Muslim; and  
9 WHEREAS, Muslims have long served in the nation’s armed  
10 forces and fought in all major United States wars, from the  
11 American Revolutionary War to modern conflicts today, with some  
12 Muslim Americans making the ultimate sacrifice in combat; and

1 WHEREAS, Muslims have contributed to social movements  
2 throughout the history of the United States in order to work toward  
3 justice and fair inclusion for all; and

4 WHEREAS, From the early days of the pioneers to our present  
5 day leaders, Muslim Americans have played a significant role in  
6 the history of this state's economic, cultural, spiritual, and political  
7 development; and

8 WHEREAS, There are approximately one million Muslim  
9 Americans across this state, contributing to its economy, social  
10 fabric, and multicultural and pluralistic traditions; and

11 WHEREAS, The Muslim residents of this state, with their hard  
12 work and contributions to medicine, science, information  
13 technology, education, police, military, and many other fields,  
14 have benefited from and enriched the state's open, tolerant, and  
15 economically vibrant environment; and

16 WHEREAS, Ramadan is a time to reflect spiritually, build  
17 communally, and aid those in need and marks an annual spiritual  
18 renewal for each individual, a reason to celebrate and express  
19 gratitude in this month; and

20 WHEREAS, On May 21, 2018, the State Capitol will host the  
21 15th annual Ramadan Capitol Iftar, a dinner marking the end of  
22 fasting on that day at dusk; and

23 WHEREAS, Ramadan is the holy month of fasting and spiritual  
24 renewal for Muslims worldwide, and is the ninth month of the  
25 Muslim calendar year; and

26 WHEREAS, The observance of the Muslim holy month of  
27 Ramadan commences at dusk on May 15, 2018, and continues for  
28 one lunar month, from sunrise to sunset each day; now, therefor,  
29 be it

30 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
31 *thereof concurring*, That in observance of, and out of respect for  
32 the commencement of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting  
33 and spiritual renewal, the Legislature acknowledges the onset of  
34 Ramadan and expresses its deepest respect to Muslims across  
35 California and throughout the world on this significant occasion;  
36 and be it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: May 14, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Ken Cooley, Chair  
ACR 233 (Reyes) – As Introduced May 2, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Ramadan

**SUMMARY:** Acknowledges the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and expresses the Legislature’s respect to Muslims across California and throughout the world on this occasion. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Ramadan is the holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal for Muslims worldwide, and is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. Islam is one of the world’s major religions and part of our shared human heritage. California’s Muslim community is one of the most diverse in the nation with ethnic and cultural backgrounds that span the globe.
- 2) Muslims have a long history in the United States, spanning back to the slave trade, in which 10 to 15 percent of the enslaved African woman and men were said to be Muslim.
- 3) From the early days of the pioneers to our present day leaders, Muslim Americans have played a significant role in the history of this state’s economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development.
- 4) The Muslim residents of this state, with their hard work and contributions to medicine, science, information technology, education, police, military, and many other fields, have benefited from and enriched the state’s open, tolerant, and economically vibrant environment.
- 5) Ramadan is a time to reflect spiritually, build communally, and aid those in need and marks an annual spiritual renewal for each individual, a reason to celebrate and express gratitude in this month.
- 6) The observance of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan commences at dusk on May 15, 2018, and continues for one lunar month, from sunrise to sunset each day; and on May 21, 2018, the State Capitol will host the 15th annual Ramadan Capitol Iftar, a dinner marking the end of fasting on that day at dusk.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 237**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Cooley and Gipson  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Acosta)**

May 9, 2018

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 237—Relative to Foster Care Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 237, as introduced, Cooley. Foster Care Month.

This measure would declare the month of May 2018 as Foster Care Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, There are currently 62,644 California children and  
2 youth in foster care who need and deserve safe, permanent  
3 connections to loving adults, a stable home, and adequate  
4 preparation for a secure future; and  
5 WHEREAS, The needs of children and youth for belonging and  
6 unconditional emotional commitment are best met in families; and  
7 WHEREAS, Many California counties and community partners  
8 have successfully supported permanent family connections for  
9 foster youth, provided support for families at risk of entering the  
10 child welfare system, and changed practices to fully engage youth,  
11 family, and communities, thereby reducing the number of children  
12 in foster care; and  
13 WHEREAS, California recognizes the enduring and valuable  
14 contribution of relatives and foster and adoptive parents who open

1 their hearts, families, and homes to vulnerable children and youth;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, California recognizes the numerous individuals  
4 and public and private organizations that work to ensure that the  
5 needs of children and youth living in, and leaving, foster care are  
6 met, that help provide foster and former foster children and youth  
7 with vital connections to their siblings, and that help launch young  
8 people into successful adulthood; and

9 WHEREAS, California is engaged in continuum of care reform,  
10 which is a comprehensive approach to improving the experience  
11 and outcomes of children and youth in foster care by improving  
12 assessments of children and families to make more informed and  
13 appropriate initial placement decisions, emphasizing home-based  
14 family care placements of children, appropriately supporting these  
15 placements with needed services, creating short-term residential  
16 therapeutic programs for youth whose needs cannot be met safely  
17 in families, and increasing transparency and accountability for  
18 child outcomes; and

19 WHEREAS, California is committed to working in partnership  
20 with the federal government and local governments to improve  
21 the lives and futures of all children and youth touched by the child  
22 welfare system; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
24 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature declares the month of  
25 May 2018 as Foster Care Month; and be it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: May 14, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Ken Cooley, Chair  
ACR 237 (Cooley) – As Introduced May 9, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Foster Care Month.

**SUMMARY:** Declares the month of May 2018 as Foster Care Month. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) In California, there are approximately 62,644 children and youth in foster care who need and deserve safe, permanent connections to loving adults, a stable home, and adequate preparation for a secure future.
- 2) Many California counties and community partners have successfully supported permanent family connections for foster youth, provided support for families at risk of entering the child welfare system, and changed practices to fully engage youth, family, and communities, thereby reducing the number of children in foster care.
- 3) California recognizes the numerous individuals and public and private organizations that work to ensure that the needs of children and youth living in, and leaving, foster care are met, that help provide foster and former foster children and youth with vital connections to their siblings, and that help launch young people into successful adulthood.
- 4) California is engaged in continuum of care reform, which is a comprehensive approach to improving the experience and outcomes of children and youth in foster care by improving assessments of children and families to make more informed and appropriate initial placement decisions, emphasizing home-based family care placements of children, appropriately supporting these placements with needed services, creating short-term residential therapeutic programs for youth whose needs cannot be met safely in families, and increasing transparency and accountability for child outcomes.
- 5) California is committed to working in partnership with the federal government and local governments to improve the lives and futures of all children and youth touched by the child welfare system.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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



AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 26, 2018

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2017–18 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 35**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Levine**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Berman, Bloom, Friedman,  
Medina, Nazarian, Rubio, and Thurmond)**

(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Glazer, Hertzberg, Jackson, Newman,  
Stern, Wieckowski, and Wiener)

March 14, 2018

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 35—Relative to *a Polish-legislation law* on speech related to the Holocaust.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 35, as amended, Levine. ~~Polish-legislation law~~: Holocaust speech.

This measure would urge lawmakers in Poland to reverse or revise *a recent Polish-legislation law* on speech related to the ~~Holocaust~~. *Holocaust, would call on Congress to join that effort, and would call for a renewed commitment to Holocaust education in California.*

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The recent enactment of legislation by the
- 2 Parliament of Poland, signed by President Andrzej Duda,
- 3 criminalizes certain speech concerning the Polish nation’s and the
- 4 Polish state’s responsibility and role in crimes against humanity
- 5 committed during the Nazi German occupation of Poland; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Beginning with the Nazi German invasion of
- 7 Poland on September 1, 1939, and throughout the course of the
- 8 Nazi occupation, the Polish people suffered immensely at the hands

1 of the Nazis, resulting in the death of millions of innocent Polish  
2 people during World War II; and

3 WHEREAS, The Polish government was in exile at the time of  
4 the Holocaust; and

5 WHEREAS, It was Nazi Germany that engineered and  
6 perpetrated the murder of six million Jews, nearly half of them  
7 Polish Jews, largely through Nazi extermination camps in occupied  
8 Poland; and

9 WHEREAS, The Polish people showed undeniable bravery in  
10 resisting the occupying forces; and

11 WHEREAS, There were thousands of Poles, recognized by Yad  
12 Vashem, the State of Israel's official memorial to the victims of  
13 the Holocaust, as Righteous Among the Nations, who risked their  
14 lives to provide assistance to Jews during the Nazi period; and

15 WHEREAS, There were Polish individuals and groups in  
16 Nazi-occupied Poland who committed crimes against Jews; and

17 WHEREAS, The new ~~legislation~~ *law* in Poland, which says in  
18 part, "Whoever claims, publicly and contrary to the facts, that the  
19 Polish Nation or the Republic of Poland is responsible or  
20 co-responsible for Nazi crimes committed by the Third ~~Reich...~~  
21 ~~or Reich...or~~ for other felonies that constitute crimes against peace,  
22 crimes against humanity or war crimes, or whoever otherwise  
23 grossly diminishes the responsibility of the true perpetrators of  
24 said ~~crimes~~ — ~~shall~~ *crimes—shall* be liable to a fine or  
25 imprisonment for up to three years," may limit the ability to convey  
26 the full story of what transpired during the Holocaust; and

27 WHEREAS, During World War II, there were thousands of  
28 Jews who died not at the hands of Nazi Germans but of their fellow  
29 Poles, as was the case in the town of Jedwabne, Poland, on July  
30 10, 1941; and

31 WHEREAS, While the new controversial law in Poland does  
32 not apply to research or artistic expression, the lines of distinction  
33 may be unclear, thereby suppressing the search for truth and  
34 legitimate conversations about history; and

35 WHEREAS, The State of California supports the efforts of the  
36 Polish government to fight the usage of the term "Polish death  
37 camps," which is historically inaccurate and hurtful; *and*

38 WHEREAS, The Constitutional Tribunal of Poland is reviewing  
39 the new law; ~~now, therefore, be it~~ *and*

1     *WHEREAS, Since 2002, the Legislature of the State of California*  
2     *has held an annual Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony, which*  
3     *includes honoring California residents who are Holocaust*  
4     *survivors and hearing their powerful stories on the floor of the*  
5     *Assembly; now, therefore, be it*

6     *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
7     *California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California*  
8     *urges lawmakers in Poland to reverse or revise the new*  
9     *controversial Polish law on speech related to the Holocaust so that*  
10    *open discussion and a thorough examination of what occurred*  
11    *during the Nazi German occupation of Poland can take place; and*  
12    *be it further*

13    *RESOLVED, That the Legislature calls for a renewed*  
14    *commitment to Holocaust education in California so that future*  
15    *generations continue to learn about the past and work to prevent*  
16    *the rise of anti-Semitism and all forms of hatred; and be it further*

17    *RESOLVED, That the Legislature calls on Congress to join in*  
18    *urging lawmakers in Poland to reverse or revise the new law and*  
19    *in renewing our national commitment to Holocaust education;*  
20    *and be it further*

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

O

Date of Hearing: May 14, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Ken Cooley, Chair  
AJR 35 (Levine) – As Amended April 26, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Polish law: Holocaust speech

**SUMMARY:** Calls on Congress to urges lawmakers in Poland to reverse or revise a recent Polish law on speech related to the Holocaust and calls for a renewed commitment to Holocaust education in California. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Beginning with the Nazi German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, and throughout the course of the Nazi occupation, the Polish people suffered immensely at the hands of the Nazis, resulting in the death of millions of innocent Polish people during World War II.
- 2) The Polish government was in exile at the time of the Holocaust; and it was Nazi Germany that engineered and perpetrated the murder of six million Jews, nearly half of them Polish Jews, largely through Nazi extermination camps in occupied Poland.
- 3) The Polish people showed undeniable bravery in resisting the occupying forces. There were thousands of Poles, recognized by Yad Vashem, the State of Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, as Righteous Among the Nations, who risked their lives to provide assistance to Jews during the Nazi period.
- 4) The recent enactment of legislation by the Parliament of Poland, signed by President Andrzej Duda, criminalizes certain speech concerning the Polish nation's and the Polish state's responsibility and role in crimes against humanity committed during the Nazi German occupation of Poland.
- 5) While the new law does not apply to research or artistic expression, the lines of distinction may be unclear, thereby suppressing the search for truth and legitimate conversations about history.
- 6) The State of California supports the efforts of the Polish government to fight the usage of the term "Polish death camps," which is historically inaccurate and hurtful. The Constitutional Tribunal of Poland is reviewing the new law.
- 7) Since 2002, the Legislature has held an annual Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony, which includes honoring California residents who are Holocaust survivors and hearing their powerful stories on the floor of the Assembly.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California

**Opposition**

None on file

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

**JPAC Board of Directors**

Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco

Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles

Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, and Sonoma Counties

Jewish Family Service of San Diego

Jewish Federation of Greater Long Beach and West Orange County

Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley

Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region

Jewish Federation of Santa Barbara

Jewish Federation and Family Services of Orange County

Anti-Defamation League

American Jewish Committee LA

30 Years After

Jewish Labor Committee Western Region

Hadassah

ETTA Ohel

Bet Tzedek

Jewish Center for Justice



April 23, 2018

The Honorable Ken Cooley  
Chair, Assembly Rules Committee  
State Capitol Building, Room 3013  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AJR 35 (Levine) Polish Legislation: Holocaust Speech - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Cooley:

On behalf of the Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California (JPAC), we write to express our support for AJR 35 (Levine) presented by the California Legislative Jewish Caucus. JPAC is the largest single-state coalition of Jewish organizations in the nation, representing Jewish communities and nonprofit organizations throughout California. Our membership is comprised of Jewish Federations, Jewish Community Relations Councils, Jewish Family Service agencies, and many Jewish community organizations, and we advocate on behalf of broader community interests in California.

The Polish bill, which was approved by the lower house of the Polish parliament on January 26, the day before International Holocaust Day, amends the Institute of National Remembrance law, and makes it a crime, punishable by up to three years in prison, to use statements, such as "Polish death camps," suggesting Poland bears any responsibility for crimes against humanity committed by Nazi Germany. As representatives of the California Jewish community, JPAC is appalled and disappointed that the Polish government is attempting to re-write history and deny any responsibility during the Holocaust. As Abraham Foxman wrote in his recent op-ed, "As survivors are passing away, as anti-Semitism is resurging, understanding the Holocaust, including how deeply embedded anti-Semitism in places like Poland contributed to the environment which led to the murder of six million, is more important than ever."

We applaud the Jewish Caucus for vocalizing opposition to Poland's decision to pass this law. For these reasons, JPAC supports AJR 35.

Sincerely,

Cece Feiler  
Chair

Cliff Berg  
Legislative Advocate

Julie Zeisler  
Executive Director

**Introduced by Senator Beall**

April 3, 2018

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 127—Relative to National Mental Health Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 127, as introduced, Beall. National Mental Health Awareness Month.

This measure would recognize May 2018 as National Mental Health Awareness Month in California to enhance public awareness of mental illness.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Mental illness is one of the leading causes of  
2 disability in the United States, affecting one out of every four  
3 families and victimizing both the person with the illness and those  
4 persons who care for and love the person afflicted; and  
5 WHEREAS, Serious mental illness costs Americans  
6 approximately \$193.2 billion in lost earnings per year; and  
7 WHEREAS, The National Institute of Mental Health has  
8 reported that many people suffer from more than one mental  
9 disorder at a given time and that 45 percent of those with a mental  
10 disorder meet criteria for two or more disorders, including diabetes,  
11 cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, and cancer, and the severity  
12 of the mental disorder strongly relates to comorbidity; and  
13 WHEREAS, Fifty-seven million Americans have a mental  
14 disorder in any given year, but fewer than 40 percent of adults  
15 living with a mental illness, and slightly more than one-half of

1 youth 8 to 15 years of age with a mental illness, received mental  
2 health services in the last year; and

3 WHEREAS, Although mental illness impacts all people, many  
4 of those in lower-income communities receive less care and poorer  
5 quality of care, and often lack access to culturally competent care,  
6 thereby resulting in mental health disparities; and

7 WHEREAS, Some see negative perceptions about mental health  
8 care as a significant factor contributing to limited or nonexistent  
9 access to care, and some common concerns are stigma, culture,  
10 masculinity, exposure to violence, and lack of information and  
11 awareness, among many others; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the California Reducing Disparities  
13 Project, being misdiagnosed and given severe mental health  
14 diagnoses can be stigmatizing and can affect the person’s  
15 self-esteem, which, in turn, can discourage the person from seeking  
16 help; and

17 WHEREAS, The three major brain diseases, schizophrenia,  
18 bipolar disorder, and depression, adversely affect the economy,  
19 contribute to the rise of incarceration rates, and erode the quality  
20 of life for patients and their loved ones; and

21 WHEREAS, Nearly two-thirds of all people with a diagnosable  
22 mental illness do not receive mental health treatment due to stigma,  
23 lack of community-based resources, inadequate diagnosis, or no  
24 diagnosis; and

25 WHEREAS, An estimated 70 percent of all youth in the juvenile  
26 justice system have at least one mental health condition, and at  
27 least 20 percent live with severe mental illness that is usually  
28 undiagnosed, misdiagnosed, untreated, or ineffectively treated,  
29 thus leaving those detained in the juvenile justice system in a  
30 vulnerable condition; and

31 WHEREAS, There is a need to improve public awareness of  
32 mental illness and to strengthen local and national awareness of  
33 brain diseases, so that all those with mental illness may receive  
34 adequate and appropriate treatment that will result in their  
35 becoming fully functioning members of society; and

36 WHEREAS, Access to mental health treatment and services is  
37 of paramount importance; and

38 WHEREAS, There is a need to encourage primary care  
39 physicians to offer screenings, to partner with mental health care



1 providers, to seek appropriate referrals to specialists, and to  
2 encourage timely and accurate diagnoses of mental disorders; and

3 WHEREAS, The Legislature wishes to enhance public  
4 awareness of mental illness; now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
6 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
7 hereby recognizes May 2018 as National Mental Health Awareness  
8 Month in California to enhance public awareness of mental illness;  
9 and be it further

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

O

Date of Hearing: May 14, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Ken Cooley, Chair  
SCR 127 (Beall) – As Introduced April 3, 2018

**SENATE VOTE:** 38-0

**SUBJECT:** National Mental Health Awareness Month.

**SUMMARY:** Recognizes May 2018 as National Mental Health Awareness Month in California to enhance public awareness of mental illness. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Mental illness is one of the leading causes of disabilities in the United States, affecting one out of every four families and victimizing both the person with the illness and those persons who care for and love the person afflicted.
- 2) 57 million Americans have a mental disorder in any given year, but fewer than 40 percent of adults living with a mental illness, and slightly more than one-half of youth 8 to 15 years of age with a mental illness, received mental health services in the last year.
- 3) Although mental illness impacts all people, many of those in lower-income communities receive less care, poorer quality of care, and often lack access to culturally competent care, thereby resulting in mental health disparities.
- 4) Nearly two-thirds of all people with a diagnosable mental illness do not receive mental health treatment due to stigma, lack of community-based resources, inadequate diagnosis, or no diagnosis.
- 5) Access to mental health treatment and services is of paramount importance and there is a need to encourage primary care physicians to offer screenings, to partner with mental health care providers, to seek appropriate referrals to specialists, and to encourage timely and accurate diagnoses of mental disorders.
- 6) There is also a need to improve public awareness of mental illness and to strengthen local and national awareness of brain diseases, so that all those with mental illness may receive adequate and appropriate treatment that will result in their becoming fully functioning members of society.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies  
California Mental Health Movement  
California Mental Health Services Authority  
County Behavioral Health Directors Association, California  
Mental Health America of California  
National Alliance on Mental Health, California  
Steinberg Institute

**Opposition**

None on file

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



ADVANCING  
BRAIN HEALTH  
POLICY &  
INSPIRING  
LEADERSHIP



California Council of Community  
Behavioral Health Agencies



California's Mental Health Movement



Mental Health America  
of California



National Alliance on Mental Illness



CalMHSA

Cooperates Action Change



COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION  
CALIFORNIA

To: Honored Members of the California Senate and Assembly

Re: Mental Health Awareness Month: Show Your Support on the Floor, Thursday, May 3

Date: May 2, 2018

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We have come so far. The state of mental health care in California is in many ways a world apart from where we were before passage of the 2004 Mental Health Services Act. In recent years, tens of thousands of residents, in communities large and small, have benefited from the services that have flourished with that funding.

During those same years, many of you have stepped forward to champion the cause of mental health care. You have joined us in pushing for stronger state guidance in an effort to standardize best practices across the counties; for a treatment paradigm that stresses early prevention and intervention, so brain illness is treated at Stage 1 rather than Stage 4; for life-changing services for homeless people living with mental illness; for an integrated system of care in which mental health is addressed with the same sweep and urgency as physical health.

We have made gains, without doubt, but the work is not done. We continue to battle the stigma that keeps too many people from accessing the care they need. We continue to battle insurance and regulatory barriers to parity in treatment access and reimbursement rates. Our jails still serve as mental health facilities of last resort and our homeless numbers are surging because people have been unable to access the care they need. We are facing a *critical* shortage of trained mental health professionals.

We reach out to you today to ask for your continued leadership on these crucial public policy issues, and for a show of support as we enter May, a month commemorated nationally to our nation's rising awareness of the importance of mental health treatment. **On Thursday, May 3, Senator Jim Beall will present a Senate resolution in recognition of May as *Mental Health Awareness Month* in California.** Each of you have been given a vibrant green tie or shawl and we ask that you please wear this symbol of support during session on Thursday. Each of us knows someone who lives with a mental illness. Let us link arms and make public our commitment to improving California's mental health system; and please, if you would like to be recognized as a mental health champion, join us for a group photograph on your respective Senate/Assembly floor.

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**Introduced by Senator Lara**  
**(Coauthors: Senators Galgiani and Wiener)**  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Cervantes, Eggman, Gloria, and Low)

April 26, 2018

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 137—Relative to Foster Care Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 137, as introduced, Lara. Foster Care Month.

This measure would recognize the month of May 2018 as Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children, and particularly lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, face in the foster care system, as specified.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Foster Care Month has been observed in the United  
2 States during the month of May every year since 1988 and  
3 continues to be recognized and celebrated across the nation; and  
4 WHEREAS, Foster Care Month is a time to recognize that we  
5 each can play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth  
6 in foster care by acknowledging foster parents, family members,  
7 volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals,  
8 and other members of the community who help children and youth  
9 in foster care find permanent homes and connections; and  
10 WHEREAS, The purpose of the foster care system is to provide  
11 children with a safe, loving, and stable home while away from  
12 their parents or guardians; and

1 WHEREAS, Every child unable to live with his or her parents  
2 or guardians is entitled to a supportive and affirming foster care  
3 placement, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or  
4 gender expression; and  
5 WHEREAS, In 2016, there were over 437,000 youth living in  
6 foster care nationwide and approximately 54,685 in California;  
7 and  
8 WHEREAS, Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and  
9 questioning (LGBTQ) youth are overrepresented in the foster care  
10 system; and  
11 WHEREAS, A 2014 study of foster youth in Los Angeles  
12 County found that 19 percent of foster youth over 12 years of age  
13 identified as LGBTQ and that the percentage of LGBTQ youth in  
14 foster care is up to twice that of LGBTQ youth who are not in  
15 foster care; and  
16 WHEREAS, Some LGBTQ youth enter foster care for similar  
17 reasons as non-LGBTQ youth, such as abuse, neglect, and parental  
18 substance abuse, but many LGBTQ youth have further challenges  
19 because they have experienced the additional trauma of having  
20 been rejected or mistreated by their families and at school because  
21 of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;  
22 and  
23 WHEREAS, LGBTQ youth in foster care have a higher average  
24 number of placements and higher likelihood of living in a group  
25 home than their non-LGBTQ peers because of the high level of  
26 bias and discrimination that they face and the difficulty of finding  
27 affirming foster placements; and  
28 WHEREAS, One study showed that 70 percent of LGBTQ youth  
29 in foster care reported experiencing violence based on LGBTQ  
30 status, 100 percent reported verbal harassment, and 78 percent of  
31 youth were removed or ran away from placement due to hostility  
32 toward their LGBTQ status; and  
33 WHEREAS, California has laws in place that explicitly protect  
34 LGBTQ youth in the foster care system from discrimination based  
35 on sexual orientation and gender identity; and  
36 WHEREAS, Only 23 other states and the District of Columbia  
37 have similar nondiscrimination laws or policies in place to protect  
38 LGBTQ youth in foster care; and  
39 WHEREAS, There is a shortage of qualified individuals willing  
40 to foster a child in the child welfare system and, consequently,

1 thousands of foster children nationwide lack a stable and safe  
2 home; and

3 WHEREAS, Children “who age out” of the foster care system  
4 without a permanent family are less likely to graduate high school  
5 or attend college and are at a high risk of unemployment,  
6 depression, poverty, homelessness, incarceration, and early  
7 parenthood; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2016, approximately 21,000 youth aged out of  
9 the foster care system nationwide; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2015, 4,271 youth in the California foster care  
11 system aged out of the foster care system without finding a  
12 permanent family; and

13 WHEREAS, A disproportionate number of LGBTQ children  
14 age out of foster care as compared to their non-LGBTQ peers; and

15 WHEREAS, Discriminatory treatment of willing and qualified  
16 LGBTQ individuals and couples continues to create barriers that  
17 prohibit them from fostering and adopting children and limits the  
18 number of homes available to children in the child welfare system;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Same sex couples are six times more likely to foster  
21 children and at least four times more likely to adopt than their  
22 non-LGBTQ counterparts; and

23 WHEREAS, California laws explicitly protect LGBTQ  
24 individuals who wish to serve as foster parents from discrimination  
25 based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and

26 WHEREAS, Only two other states and the District of Columbia  
27 have passed similar laws that explicitly protect LGBTQ adults  
28 who are willing to provide foster care homes from discrimination  
29 based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and

30 WHEREAS, While the State of California has reduced barriers  
31 for LGBTQ youth and prospective parents in the foster care system,  
32 much remains to be done to ensure that all children have a safe,  
33 loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of sexual  
34 orientation and gender identity or expression of the children and  
35 foster parents; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
37 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the  
38 extraordinary role that LGBTQ parents play in the foster care  
39 system, as well as the unique challenges that face LGBTQ foster  
40 youth in California; and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of May  
2 2018 as Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness  
3 about the challenges that children, and particularly LGBTQ youth,  
4 face in the foster care system; and be it further

5     *Resolved*, That the Legislature reaffirms its support for LGBTQ  
6 foster youth and foster parents and pledges to strengthen its efforts  
7 to ensure permanent, safe, and loving homes that reduce instability  
8 and measurably improve outcomes for LGBTQ foster youth; and  
9 be it further

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

O



Date of Hearing: May 14, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Ken Cooley, Chair  
SCR 137 (Lara) – As Introduced April 26, 2018

**SENATE VOTE:** 32-2

**SUBJECT:** Foster Care Month.

**SUMMARY:** Recognizes the month of May 2018 as Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children, and particularly lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, face in the foster care system. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Foster Care Month is a time to recognize that we each can play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care.
- 2) Every child unable to live with his or her parents or guardians is entitled to a supportive and affirming foster care placement, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
- 3) LGBTQ youth are overrepresented in the foster care system. A 2014 study of foster youth in Los Angeles County found that 19% of foster youth over 12 years of age identified as LGBTQ and that the percentage of LGBTQ youth in foster care is up to twice that of LGBTQ youth who are not in foster care.
- 4) Some LGBTQ youth enter foster care for similar reasons as non-LGBTQ youth, such as abuse, neglect, and parental substance abuse, but many LGBTQ youth have further challenges because they have experienced the additional trauma of having been rejected or mistreated by their families and at school because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
- 5) LGBTQ youth in foster care have a higher average number of placements and higher likelihood of living in a group home than their non-LGBTQ peers because of the high level of bias and discrimination that they face and the difficulty of finding affirming foster placements.
- 6) One study showed that 70% of LGBTQ youth in foster care reported experiencing violence based on LGBTQ status, 100% reported verbal harassment, and 78% of youth were removed or ran away from placement due to hostility toward their LGBTQ status.
- 7) A disproportionate number of LGBTQ children age out of foster care as compared to their non-LGBTQ peers.
- 8) California has laws in place that explicitly protect LGBTQ youth in the foster care system from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- 9) California laws also explicitly protect LGBTQ individuals who wish to serve as foster parents from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

- 10) While California has reduced barriers for LGBTQ youth and prospective parents in the foster care system, much remains to be done to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression of the children and foster parents.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

American Civil Liberties Union of California  
Family Equality Council

**Opposition**

None on file

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



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May 11, 2018

The Honorable Ken Cooley  
State Capitol, Room 3013  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SCR 137 – as introduced  
Support**

Dear Assemblymember Cooley:

The American Civil Liberties Union of California is pleased to support SCR 137 (Lara), which recognizes the important role that LGBTQ parents play in the foster care system and the unique challenges that face LGBTQ foster youth in California.

California is a national leader in protecting the rights and fighting for the futures of our foster youth – no matter their race, gender, or sexual orientation. However, California's LGBTQ youth are over-represented in the foster care system. A 2014 study of foster youth in Los Angeles County found that 19% of foster youth over the age of 12 identified as LGBTQ and that the percentage of LGBTQ youth in foster care is up to twice that of LGBTQ youth who are not in foster care.

In 2016, there were approximately 54,685 youth living in foster care in California. Many experience further trauma stemming from family rejection, mistreatment and school bullying due to their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. California is among the few states in the nation with explicit nondiscrimination protections in statute to protect LGBTQ foster youth and their caregivers and LGBTQ families have stepped up as adoptive and foster parents – helping to heal these vulnerable young people.

SCR 137 would proclaim May as National Foster Care Month and call upon all Californians to strengthen our collective efforts to ensure stability and improved outcomes for LGBTQ foster youth in the state. For these reasons, we are pleased to support SCR 137.

Sincerely,

Kevin G. Baker  
Legislative Director

Becca Cramer-Mowder  
Legislative Coordinator

cc: Members and Committee Staff, Assembly Rules Committee



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May 11, 2018

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

**RE: Support for SCR 137 – Foster Care Month Resolution**

Dear Assemblyman Cooley,

Family Equality Council is pleased to sponsor Senate Concurrent Resolution 137 (Lara), which would designate the month of May 2018 as National Foster Care Month in the State of California and call upon all Californians to observe the month by recognizing the extraordinary role that LGBTQ parents play in the foster care system, as well as the unique challenges that face LGBTQ foster youth in California.

In 2016, there were over 437,000 youth living in foster care nationwide and approximately 54,685 in the State of California. A 2014 study of foster youth in Los Angeles County found that 19% of foster youth over the age of 12 identified as LGBTQ and that the percentage of LGBTQ youth in foster care is up to twice that of LGBTQ youth who are not in foster care. While LGBTQ foster youth often enter foster care for the same reasons as their non-LGBTQ peers, such as abuse, neglect, and/or parental substance abuse, many have experienced further trauma stemming from family rejection, mistreatment and school bullying due to their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Further, a disproportionate number of LGBTQ children age out of foster care without finding a forever, loving family as compared to their non-LGBTQ foster peers. Children who “age out” are less likely to graduate high school and are more likely to experience unemployment, depression, poverty, homelessness, incarceration, and early parenthood.

Foster Care Month is an opportunity to recognize that many foster youth have endured years of abuse and neglect while acknowledging these challenges are not overcome in a month – it takes years of commitment by our court system, schools, non-profit sector, business community, Legislature, and the extraordinary efforts of foster parents and family members.

California is a national leader in protecting the rights of and fighting for the futures of our foster youth – no matter their race, gender, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation. California is among the few states in the nation with explicit statutory non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ foster youth and their caregivers.

Love. Justice. Family. Equality. [www.familyequality.org](http://www.familyequality.org)



In proclaiming May 2018 as National Foster Care Month, SCR 137 calls upon all Californians to strengthen our collective efforts to ensure stability and improved outcomes for LGBTQ foster youth in the state. For all the foregoing reasons, Family Equality Council is honored to have worked with Senator Lara to sponsor SCR 137.

Sincerely,

*Denise E. Brogan-Kator*

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