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ACR-179 Foster Care Month. (2015-2016)

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 179

CHAPTER 88

Relative to Foster Care Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 11, 2016.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 179, Cooley. Foster Care Month.

This measure would declare the month of May 2016 as Foster Care Month.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, In California, there are approximately 66,250 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; and

WHEREAS, The needs of children and youth for belonging and unconditional emotional commitment are best met in families; and

WHEREAS, Many California counties 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; and

WHEREAS, California recognizes the enduring and valuable contribution of relatives and foster and adoptive parents who open their hearts, families, and homes to vulnerable children and youth; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, The federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 offers opportunities to promote permanent families for children in foster care, improve outcomes for older youth in foster care, increase support for Native American foster children, improve the quality of staff working with youth in the child welfare system, expand our support of relative and adoptive caregivers, and assist older youth in securing meaningful supportive transitions from foster care; and

WHEREAS, This federal law affirms California's leadership and success in pioneering innovative child welfare approaches; and

WHEREAS, 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 available services, changing the goals for congregate, also known as group home, care placements, and increasing transparency and accountability for child outcomes; and

WHEREAS, 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; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature declares the month of May 2016 as Foster Care Month; and be it further resolved that

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