



ACR-152 National Mentoring Month. (2017-2018)

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 152

CHAPTER 7

Relative to proclaiming National Mentoring Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State February 07, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 152, Aguiar-Curry. National Mentoring Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of January 2018 as National Mentoring Month.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, The citizens of California recognize that our success depends on helping every child succeed in school and reach his or her full potential in life, and realize that young people need a solid foundation of support that will help them become well-educated, confident, and productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mentoring is a proven, effective strategy that helps children and young adults by matching them with caring, responsible adults who can provide guidance and direction and build their confidence; and

WHEREAS, Mentors build character, encourage success, boost confidence, lift expectations, and expand the universe of a child, serving as friends, role models, teachers, and sources of stability and support during a critical time in a child's life; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that mentoring has beneficial long-term effects on youth by increasing their chances of high school graduation and college attendance and decreasing the likelihood of substance abuse and other risky behaviors; and

WHEREAS, Mentoring strengthens our state's economic and social well-being by helping young people fulfill their potential while helping maintain healthy families and promoting more vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, Every day, residents of California are making a profound difference in the lives of our young people by serving as mentors, supported by many private and public sector organizations that offer mentoring opportunities for youth; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of California's children are in need of a caring adult mentor in their lives, and closing this mentoring gap will take more investment, more partnerships, and more volunteers ready to make a difference in a child's life; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership created the National Mentoring Month campaign, held annually each January, to raise awareness of mentoring, to recruit individuals to mentor, and to promote the growth of mentoring by encouraging organizations to facilitate employee involvement in quality mentoring; and

WHEREAS, Researchers have found that children in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program, who spend time with their Big Brother or Big Sister, compared to children not in the program, are 46 percent less likely to begin using drugs, 27 percent less likely to begin using alcohol, 52 percent less likely to skip school, 37 percent less likely to skip a class, and 33 percent less likely to hit someone; and

WHEREAS, National Mentoring Month is an opportunity to raise public awareness of the importance of mentoring, to recognize the dedicated individuals who serve as mentors, and to encourage more citizens to help build a brighter future for California's youth through mentoring; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims the month of January 2018 as National Mentoring Month and January 21, 2018, as Thank Your Mentor Day, and calls upon the people of the State of California to recognize the importance of mentoring, to look for opportunities to serve as mentors in their communities, and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs; and be it further

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