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ACR-256 Rosie's Day. (2017-2018)

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 256

CHAPTER 166

Relative to Rosie's Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 27, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 256, Reyes. Rosie's Day.

This measure would declare July 27, 2018, as California Bullying Prevention Day, also to be known as Rosie's Day.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Bullying is defined as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, that causes a reasonable pupil to suffer negative consequences due to a fear of harm; and

WHEREAS, Bullying behaviors are recognized as dangerous and harmful acts that victimize the targeted child and bystanders and these behaviors are characterized by a pattern of deliberate, negative, hurtful, and aggressive acts that work to shift the balance of physical, emotional, or social power; and

WHEREAS, The prevalence of bullying among children and youth is staggering, with studies nationally suggesting that more than one out of every five students report being bullied; and

WHEREAS, Thirty-three percent of students who reported being bullied at school nationwide indicate that they were bullied at least once or twice a month during the school year; and

WHEREAS, Cyberbullying can be defined as harassing, intimidating, or annoying another person via electronic communications; and

WHEREAS, According to reports from the Center for Disease Control, among high school students 15.5 percent are cyberbullied, a number that rises to nearly 25 percent for middle school students; and

WHEREAS, Only 23 percent of students who reported being cyberbullied notified an adult at school about the incident; and

WHEREAS, School bullying has been identified as a problematic behavior among adolescents, affecting school achievement, prosocial skills, and psychological well-being for both victims and perpetrators; and

WHEREAS, Children and youth who are bullied are more likely than other children to be depressed, lonely, or anxious; to have low self-esteem; to experience headaches, stomachaches, tiredness, and poor eating; to be absent from school, dislike school, and have poor school performance; and to think about suicide, or try to commit suicide; and

WHEREAS, Bullying can affect the social environment of a school, create a climate of fear among students, inhibit their ability to learn, and lead to other antisocial behavior; and

WHEREAS, School-based bullying prevention programs may include a combination of interventions schoolwide, at the classroom level, and at the individual level to create a social environment characterized by positive adult involvement, firm limits for unacceptable behavior, consistent use of sanctions for rule violations, and recognition that adults are the authorities; and

WHEREAS, Restorative justice may be an effective strategy to prevent bullying. Restorative justice is a form of conflict resolution that aims to make clear to the offender that his or her offending behavior is not condoned, while at the same time being supportive and respectful of the individual; and

WHEREAS, In December of 2017 Rosalie (Rosie) Avila, a teenager from Yucaipa, California, suffered multiple forms of bullying, including physical and verbal, both online and in person, and, sadly, she felt that the only course of action was to take her own life; and

WHEREAS, The life of Rosie Avila and all other students who have lost their lives due to bullying must be remembered; and

WHEREAS, We must do all we can to continue to educate, empower, and protect children throughout California when it comes to the topic of bullying and provide our young people with opportunities to acquire knowledge and develop into healthy and productive adults; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature declares July 27, 2018, as California Bullying Prevention Day, also to be known as Rosie's Day, and recognizes the need for all of us as individuals, schools, communities, businesses, local governments, and the state to take action on behalf of bullying prevention in California; and be it further

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