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**HR-58** (2019-2020)

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2019–2020 REGULAR SESSION

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

**NO. 58**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Reyes**

**August 19, 2019**

Relative to Children's Environmental Health Month 2019.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

HR 58, as introduced, Reyes.

WHEREAS, Children are especially vulnerable to environmental health issues because they are physiologically very different from adults and are in a dynamic state of growth. At birth, the human nervous, respiratory, reproductive, and immune systems are not yet fully developed, and these systems absorb more air in proportion to their body weight than do adults. They also have higher metabolic rates and a higher proportionate intake of food and liquid than adults. Children also have different behavior patterns, and therefore, different exposure paths than adults; and

WHEREAS, All children are affected by environmental hazards because pollution and environmental degradation know no county, state, regional, or national border. Contaminants are transported through many media, including air, water, soil, and food throughout the world. For example, particulate matter released into the air from internal combustion diesel engines cause many health impacts on children that live near goods movement corridors, including increased hospitalizations and emergency department visits for exacerbated chronic heart and lung disease, including asthma, increased respiratory symptoms, and decreased lung function in children with developing lungs. These effects can stay with a child for their whole lives, and even shorten a child's lifespan; and

WHEREAS, It is an established fact that children living in poverty and children in disadvantaged communities are at disproportionate risk for exposure to environmental hazards; and

WHEREAS, Many areas of the state most impacted by air pollution also have the largest populations of children in the state; and

WHEREAS, The United States has experienced worrisome increases in certain childhood diseases, disorders, and health problems, including asthma, autism, obesity, and cancer. Researchers are working hard to determine to what degree these increases are linked to environmental exposures; and

WHEREAS, The aim of Children's Environmental Health Month is to raise awareness about the importance of clean air and water, safe food and consumer products, and healthy environments to children's health and development; and

WHEREAS, Children's Environmental Health Day was created by the Children's Environmental Health Network and celebrated for the first time on October 13, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Children's Environmental Health Month is generally observed in October as a means to celebrate progress of the children's environmental health movement and create a strong network of child health advocates; and

WHEREAS, Children's Environmental Health Month is a national effort supported by individuals, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies; and

WHEREAS, Children's Environmental Health Month encourages individuals and organizations to raise awareness and understanding of children's environmental health issues, seek improved protections for children, and perform acts of sustainability or environmental health wellness; and

WHEREAS, Together, we can safeguard the health, safety, and well-being of our children, who are our most precious resource; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the Assembly proclaims October 2019 as Children's Environmental Health Month, and affirms that all children have a right to clean air and water, safer food and products, and healthy environments; and be it further

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