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SCR-9 Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. (2021-2022)

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9

CHAPTER 4

Relative to Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State March 19, 2021.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 9, Rubio. Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

This measure would designate the month of February 2021 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and would encourage all Californians to observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month with programs and activities that raise awareness about the dynamics of teen dating violence and support youth in learning the skills to have safe and healthy relationships.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Teen dating violence, also known as dating abuse, is a serious and growing problem throughout California; and

WHEREAS, Teen dating violence intervention and prevention programs can help to ensure a positive school climate and safe learning environment for all youth 12 to 24 years of age, inclusive; and

WHEREAS, Education and outreach programs to community members address warning signs of teen dating violence among youth before behaviors escalate and protect the safety of targeted youth; and

WHEREAS, Consistent with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations for a comprehensive primary prevention program, multiple strategies are required such as teaching safe and healthy relationship skills, engaging influential adults and peers, disrupting the developmental pathways toward partner violence, creating protective environments, strengthening economic supports for families, and supporting survivors to increase safety and lessen harm; and

WHEREAS, Each year, an estimated one in 10 high school students is physically hurt on purpose by a dating partner; and

WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's teen dating violence prevention model, Dating Matters: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships, one in three adolescents report verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual dating abuse each year; and

WHEREAS, According to the American Psychological Association, one in three teens 14 to 20 years of age, inclusive, have experienced dating abuse and about the same number say they have committed dating abuse themselves; and

WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, one in 11 female teens and one in 15 male teens reported experiencing physical violence in the last year; and

WHEREAS, More than 40 percent of Native American children experience two or more acts of violence by the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, one in 9 female teens and one in 36 male teens reported experiencing sexual dating violence in the last year; and

WHEREAS, Forty-three percent of LGB teens reported experiencing physical dating violence, compared to 29 percent of heterosexual youth; and

WHEREAS, Fifty-nine percent of LGB teens reported emotional abuse, compared to 46 percent of heterosexual youth; and

WHEREAS, Fifty percent of Transgender youth reported experiencing sexual violence at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, Teen dating violence has been linked to other forms of violence and aggression against peers, including bullying, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and physical violence; and

WHEREAS, Survivors of teen dating violence have increased risk for truancy, dropout, teen pregnancy, suicide, having eating disorders, and engaging in other harmful behaviors such as use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; and

WHEREAS, Nearly one-half of students who experience dating violence have reported that some of the abuse took place on school grounds; and

WHEREAS, Survivors of teen dating violence are also at increased risk for carrying a weapon to school, being threatened or injured with a weapon at school, and damaging school property; and

WHEREAS, Youth who are survivors in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college, and adolescent perpetrators of dating violence are more likely to abuse their intimate partners as adults; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit schools, communities, families, and all youth; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims the month of February 2021 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and supports communities to empower teens to develop healthy and violence-free relationships throughout their lives; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature calls upon the people of California, including schools, community groups, families, and youth to observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month with programs and activities that raise awareness about the dynamics of teen dating violence and support youth in learning the skills to have safe and healthy relationships; and be it further

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