

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Blanca Pacheco, Chair  
ACR 130 (Ta) – As Introduced February 5, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Sylvia Mendez Day.

**SUMMARY:** Declares April 14 of each year as Sylvia Mendez Day, in recognition of the significance of the historic Mendez v. Westminster case in advancing civil rights and promoting educational equality for all students in California and the United States. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The landmark United States Supreme Court case Mendez v. Westminster School Dist. of Orange County (S.D. Cal. 1946) 64 F.Supp. 544, affd. Westminster School Dist. of Orange County v. Mendez (9th Cir. 1947) 161 F.2d 774 (hereafter Mendez v. Westminster) was a pivotal decision in the struggle for civil rights and educational equality for Mexican American students in California.
- 2) The case arose from discriminatory practices occurring all over America where Mexican American children were segregated into “Mexican schools” under the guise of separate but equal policies.
- 3) The Mendez v. Westminster case challenged these policies, asserting that the segregation of Mexican American children violated their rights under the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees equal protection under the law.
- 4) The United States District Court’s ruling in Mendez v. Westminster was one of the first major legal decisions to strike down segregation in schools in the United States, paving the way for future desegregation cases, including the landmark Brown v. Board of Ed. of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kan. (1954) 347 U.S. 483 (hereafter Brown v. Board of Education).
- 5) Earl Warren, who was Governor of California at the time of the Mendez v. Westminster case, supported the legal action and the bill that led to the end of school segregation in California, and later was appointed as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, played a key role in the writing of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, which extended the principles of Mendez v. Westminster nationwide.
- 6) California led the United States in banning school segregation, with the Mendez v. Westminster case setting a crucial precedent that resulted in the Legislature passing laws to eliminate school segregation in the state, well before the national legal landscape was transformed by Brown v. Board of Education.
- 7) The Mendez v. Westminster decision had a profound impact not only on the educational system of California but also on the civil rights movement, as it marked an early victory in the ongoing fight against racial segregation and discrimination in the United States.

- 8) The legal precedent set by Mendez v. Westminster was a significant step toward the eventual dismantling of racial segregation across the nation and was instrumental in shaping the civil rights landscape of the 20th century.
- 9) It is important to honor and recognize the courage of the families and the contributions of the legal and civil rights advocates who fought for justice in this landmark case, which continues to inspire efforts toward equality and inclusion in education and society.
- 10) April 14 of each year marks the anniversary of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit decision in Mendez v. Westminster, and it is fitting to commemorate this day as a reminder of the ongoing fight for equal rights and the importance of education in fostering a just and equitable society.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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