

Date of Hearing: May 4, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Blanca Pacheco, Chair  
ACR 189 (Ahrens) – As Introduced April 30, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Foster Youth Awareness Month.

**SUMMARY:** Designates the month of May 2026 as Foster Youth Awareness Month in California. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) California’s children and youth are our hope for the future, and all children deserve a safe, loving, accepting, stable, and nurturing home. Preserving families is the primary goal of the child welfare system.
- 2) Kinship families, foster families, foster family agencies, and short-term residential therapeutic programs play a critical role in supporting children in foster care and making family reunification possible.
- 3) One-half of all children in foster care have endured four or more adverse childhood experiences such as abuse, neglect, and abandonment, which can negatively impact their health and development. For children and youth in the foster care system, we must continue finding them loving homes, provide them with the resources they need, and deliver safe and supportive permanent homes.
- 4) California further recognizes the strength, resilience, and leadership of foster youth and former foster youth, who contribute meaningfully to their communities, lead advocacy efforts, inform policy, and drive systems change through their lived expertise.
- 5) Foster youth continue to challenge and redefine traditional measures of success by pursuing education, careers, healing, community leadership, and personal growth on their own terms, despite systemic barriers and disparities reflected in outcomes data.
- 6) California recognizes the numerous individuals and public and nonprofit organizations that work to meet the needs of current and former children and youth in the foster care system, including helping to provide vital connections to siblings and launching young people into successful adulthood.

**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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