

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
ACR 189 (Ahrens)
As Introduced April 30, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Designates the month of May 2026 as Foster Youth Awareness Month in California.

Major Provisions

- 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.

COMMENTS

According to the Author

"There are over 43,000 foster youth in California, and it's important to commend them for their strength and resilience and draw attention to the obstacles they must overcome relative to their peers. It's also important to recognize the many individuals and groups within the child welfare system for the work they do to support vulnerable youth."

Arguments in Support

The California Alliance of Child and Family Services writes in support: "California children and youth in foster care need and deserve safe, permanent connections to loving adults and a stable

home. While ACR 189 serves to focus our attention on the Foster Care System during the month of May, it can also be an important step in addressing and solving issues within that system moving forward."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

No fiscal impact. This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

VOTES

ASM RULES: 9-0-1

YES: Pacheco, Ahrens, Dixon, Garcia, Mark González, Irwin, Michelle Rodriguez, Sanchez, Zbur

ABS, ABST OR NV: Lackey

UPDATED

VERSION: April 30, 2026

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