
THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 17
Author: Atkins (D)
Introduced: 2/2/17
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting Awareness Day

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes February 6, 2017, as Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting Awareness Day in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Since 1996, cutting a girl's genitals for nonmedical reasons has been illegal under federal law, but nearly 507,000 women and girls in the U.S. could be at risk of Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C).
- 2) FGM/C comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for nonmedical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. The procedure severely affects women and girls, causing them considerable pain and suffering and, in some cases, threatens their lives.
- 3) In some regions of the world, the practice is seen as an important coming-of-age ritual that ensures a woman's purity, can be a requirement for her to marry, and is a practice that sometimes continues after immigrating and assimilating into American society.
- 4) Due to an increase in immigration from countries where the practice of FGM/C is common, California has the largest population of women and girls at risk of FGM/C.
- 5) Since 2012, the United Nations General Assembly has recognized International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation on February 6, and has the largest global program to accelerate abandonment of its practice and to provide care for its consequences.

This resolution recognizes February 6, 2017, as Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting Awareness Day in California and urges individuals, community members, medical practitioners, and institutions to observe this day with appropriate notice so that Californians may achieve a better understanding, to ensure U.S. laws are enforced, and so that the affected women and girls receive the care and support they need.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 2/2/17)

Nile Sisters Development Initiative

OPPOSITION: (Verified 2/2/17)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Nile Sisters Development Initiative states, “Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C) Awareness Day is a critical measure that would enhance grassroots efforts to break the silence surrounding FGM/C. Furthermore, the measure would empower not only at-risk communities, but also stakeholders working on their behalf, with the knowledge needed to address the practice.”

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2/3/17 10:11:07

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