

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 9—Assemblymen Parnell, Allen, Anderson, Angle, Arberry Jr., Atkinson, Buckley, Carpenter, Christensen, Claborn, Conklin, Denis, Gansert, Gerhardt, Giunchigliani, Goicoechea, Grady, Hardy, Hettrick, Hogan, Holcomb, Horne, Kirkpatrick, Koivisto, Leslie, Mabey, Manendo, Marvel, McClain, McCleary, Mortenson, Munford, Ocegüera, Ohrenschall, Parks, Perkins, Pierce, Seale, Sherer, Sibley, Smith and Weber

Joint Sponsors: Senators Amodei, Beers, Care, Carlton, Cegavske, Coffin, Hardy, Heck, Horsford, Lee, Mathews, McGinness, Nolan, Raggio, Rhoads, Schneider, Tiffany, Titus, Townsend, Washington and Wiener

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Commending the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program and the law enforcement officers who are specially trained to provide instruction in the D.A.R.E. curriculum, and designating March 21 to 25, 2005, as Law Enforcement Youth Drug Education Week in Nevada.

WHEREAS, Illegal drug use and the abuse of prescription drugs and alcohol have the potential to destroy the hopes, ambitions and lives of users and to negatively impact the safety and health of families, schools and communities with an associated increase in violence and risky behavior; and

WHEREAS, As long as drugs remain available to young people, antidrug education must be a priority, because only through consistent and ongoing antidrug messages from family, friends, schools and governments, and the supported efforts of these youth to remain drug free, can adolescent drug use be substantially reduced; and

WHEREAS, Since its development in 1983, the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program, based on the premise that prevention is the only long-term answer to substance abuse, has offered a curriculum to millions of students from kindergarten through grade 12 that helps students raise their self-esteem to resist peer pressure, teaches them how to make decisions on their own and encourages them to identify positive alternatives to drugs; and

WHEREAS, Expanded in 1994 to include lessons that focus on reducing violence through the use of anger management and conflict resolution and by building interpersonal and communications skills, the D.A.R.E. curriculum is constantly being revised to blend the latest in prevention science with the largest prevention delivery network in the world; and

WHEREAS, The D.A.R.E. program relies on accurate information and an upbeat approach to give young people the skills they need to recognize and resist the subtle and overt pressures that may cause them to experiment with drugs or become involved in gangs or violent activities and to inspire them to become contributing members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, A unique feature of D.A.R.E. is the introduction into the classroom of law enforcement officers from the community who are certified school resource officers and who, through the utilization of on-the-job experiences and specialized training, have dedicated themselves to helping the young people in this State to remain drug and violence free; and

WHEREAS, Nevada's law enforcement community has made a commitment to educate the youth of Nevada concerning the dangers of gangs, violence and drug use, and as members of our communities, and through their daily work routine, these law enforcement officers continually strive to work with the children in our school system to teach such awareness in classrooms throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, The presence of these dedicated men and women in our schools permits students to interact with law enforcement officers, and the relationships that develop open lines of communication between law enforcement and these children, setting the stage to defuse dangerous situations that may arise on school campuses; and

WHEREAS, As they introduce valuable lessons through role-playing, group discussions, question-and-answer sessions and workbook exercises in the classroom setting, these officers become visible role models to the students and provide opportunities for them to seek support in other areas of their lives where they may feel threatened or afraid or pressured to engage in harmful behavior; and

WHEREAS, By holding true to the ethics of police service, these members of the law enforcement community have shown their dedication and loyalty to the residents of the State of Nevada; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the members of the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature commend the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program for its part in lowering the percentage of drug use and participation in gangs and violent activities among the youth of our nation while providing them with positive and healthful alternatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the residents of the State of Nevada applaud the dedication of the Nevada law enforcement officers whose expertise in the classrooms of our State as they present the D.A.R.E.

program is critical to the well-being of our children and their future; and be it further

RESOLVED, That March 21 to 25, 2005, is declared Law Enforcement Youth Drug Education Week in Nevada, in conjunction with the Nevada State D.A.R.E. Conference to be held in Carson City; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to Sergeant Mark Sharp, State D.A.R.E. Administrator, John Lybbert, State D.A.R.E. Coordinator and Mike Pardovich, President of the D.A.R.E. Officers Association.

