

SAMPLE RESOLUTION
STOPPING CHILD MARRIAGE IN CALIFORNIA

Whereas, child marriage is defined as having one or both spouses under the age of majority which is age eighteen; and

Whereas, recent findings of the Pew Research Center reports that the State of California ranks sixth in the nation for married children between the ages of fifteen and seventeen; and

Whereas, the State of California does not have a minimum age for marriage; and

Whereas, the vast majority of child marriages are between an adult male and a minor girl; and

Whereas, child marriages automatically place the minor in an unequal, disadvantaged position within the marriage; and

Whereas, the American Academy of Pediatrics finds child marriage has a “devastating impact on health” and will “increase the risk of lifetime and current psychiatric disorders in the United States” while also leading to increased rates of diabetes, cancer, strokes and heart attacks; and

Whereas, child marriages are often coerced or forced; and

Whereas, child marriages have been used to cover for crimes such as statutory rape and sex trafficking; and

Whereas, the Department of Economics of the University of California at San Diego finds that American girls who marry before nineteen are 50 percent more likely than their unmarried peers to drop out of high school, four times less likely to graduate from college, and 31 percentage points more likely to live in poverty; and

Whereas, a case study by Williams & Mary Law School indicates that 70-80% child marriages end in divorce; and

Whereas, the WORLD Policy Analysis Center finds that child brides are three times more likely to be beaten by their spouse than those who marry after eighteen; and

Whereas, loophole closing reforms have recently been enacted in Virginia, New York, Connecticut and Texas; and

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved That, [governing body or organization] supports legislation calling for an end to child marriage in the State of California.