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Introduced by Senator Polanco

August 13, 2002

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 102—Relative to Binational Health Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 102, as introduced, Polanco. Binational Health Week.

This measure would call on all the people of California to join the people of Mexico and all Californians of Mexican origin in observing and participating in Binational Health Week, to take place the week of October 12 to 19, 2002.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, According to the 2000 United States Census,  
2 California is home to more than 8.45 million people of Mexican  
3 origin, 3.7 million of whom were born in Mexico; and  
4 WHEREAS, The Secretariat of Health and the Secretariat of  
5 Foreign Relations of the United Mexican States, the State  
6 Department of Health Services, and the University of California,  
7 for the California-Mexico Health Initiative (CMHI), have  
8 recognized the necessity of improving access to health services to  
9 migrant workers and their families in the State of California; and  
10 WHEREAS, Mexican-origin immigrants have limited access to  
11 health care; and  
12 WHEREAS, Seventy-seven percent of Latinos in California are  
13 of Mexican origin; and  
14 WHEREAS, Forty-four percent of the Mexican immigrants in  
15 the United States are in California; and

1 WHEREAS, Ninety-one percent of California’s hired  
2 agricultural workers were born in Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, Improving the health of mobile populations  
4 requires multiple approaches in service design, delivery, funding  
5 priorities, and, more fundamentally, requires strong binational  
6 commitment; and

7 WHEREAS, In October 2001, the CMHI, the California Policy  
8 Research Center, the University of California Office of the  
9 President, and the State Office of Binational Border Health  
10 convened the first Binational Health Week, an unprecedented  
11 effort overseen by multiagency task forces, which conducted  
12 health-promotion activities involving 115 community-based  
13 organizations from seven counties at 98 sites; and

14 WHEREAS, More than 950 people participated in planning and  
15 implementing activities, and over 18,720 people received direct  
16 health care services during the week; and

17 WHEREAS, Binational Health Week reflects coordinated  
18 efforts between California and Mexico to improve the quality of  
19 life of immigrant families by expanding their access to health care,  
20 increasing their health insurance coverage, and reducing their  
21 unmet health needs; and

22 WHEREAS, The CMHI operates in California, and in seven  
23 Mexican states that are home to many California immigrants; and

24 WHEREAS, This Binational Health Week is a bilateral  
25 collaborative effort with the active participation of the Mexican  
26 Ministry of Health and Foreign Affairs, and state and local  
27 organizations. In California, the State Department of Health  
28 Services, the Office of Binational Border Health, the Mexican  
29 Consulate, the Latino Legislative Caucus, community clinics, and  
30 community-based organizations have endorsed the effort; and

31 WHEREAS, The objective of Binational Health Week is to  
32 generate a dynamic dialogue between California and Mexico  
33 representatives, and the CMHI vision is that “[h]ealth is a  
34 universal human right that should be respected both in one’s place  
35 of origin and where one works”; and

36 WHEREAS, California and Mexico share a population, and  
37 they need to share common strategies to address this population’s  
38 health needs; now, therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
40 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the State of California



1 hereby calls on all the people of California to join the people of  
2 Mexico and all Californians of Mexican origin in observing and  
3 participating in Binational Health Week, to take place the week of  
4 October 12 to 19, 2002; and be it further  
5 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
6 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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