

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 70

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 98

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 70—Relative to HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment for women.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 21, 2004.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 70, Garcia. HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment for women.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to recognize and respond to the growing risk of women contracting, and the increased numbers of women who have contracted, HIV or AIDS by providing more funding for and financial participation in prevention, outreach, and treatment programs that specifically help women and their families who are living with or at risk of contracting HIV or AIDS.

WHEREAS, The Desert Sun newspaper in Palm Springs, California reports that “[a]ccording to the World Health Organization figures, an estimated 19.2 million HIV-positive women worldwide account for almost half of 42 million HIV-positive adults in 2001”; and

WHEREAS, According to a publication of the State Department of Health Services, women comprise about 8 percent of all reported cases of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in California, and yet they are the fastest growing population with AIDS in California, with Latino and African-American women infected in greater numbers than their share of the population; and

WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that in the United States in 1992, women accounted for 14 percent of the adults and adolescents living with AIDS and by 1999, the proportion had grown to 20 percent, reflecting the growing proportion of women living with AIDS during the seven-year period between 1992 and 1999; and

WHEREAS, According to the CDC, from 1985 to 1999, the proportion of all AIDS cases reported among adult and adolescent women tripled from 7 percent to 25 percent; and

WHEREAS, The CDC reports that while the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and AIDS-related deaths among women continued to decrease in 1999, largely as a result of recent advances in HIV treatment, HIV and AIDS was the fifth leading cause of death for

women in the United States ages 25 to 44 years and among African-American women in this same age group HIV and AIDS was the third leading cause of death in 1999; and

WHEREAS, The CDC also reports that scientists believe that cases of HIV infection reported among 13 to 24 year olds are indicative of overall trends in HIV incidence and in a study based on confidential HIV reporting for adults and adolescents in 2000, females made up nearly one-half of HIV cases among 13 to 24 year olds, with African-American and Hispanic women accounting for an estimated three-fourths of HIV infections reported among females between the ages of 13 and 24 in that study; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California requests that the President and Congress of the United States recognize and respond to the growing risk of women contracting, and the increased numbers of women who have contracted, HIV or AIDS by providing more funding for and financial participation in prevention, outreach, and treatment programs that specifically help women and their families who are living with or at risk of contracting HIV or AIDS; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Congress of the United States, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

