

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 8

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 28

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 8—Relative to Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 3, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 8, Dymally. Elder and dependent adult abuse.

This measure would proclaim the month of May this year and every year thereafter as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adult abuse is a serious and growing problem throughout California; and

WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adult abuse is a crime that is indiscriminate in choosing whom it strikes, and factors such as one's socioeconomic status, gender, race, ethnicity, educational background, and geographic location do not provide an impregnable barrier against its broad, horrible reach; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 225,000 Californians are victims of elder and dependent adult abuse every year, including neglect and physical, psychological, emotional, and financial abuse; and

WHEREAS, Victimization levels promise to significantly increase, as the United States Census Bureau projects that California's elderly population will nearly double in the next 20 years, from 3.7 million to over 6.4 million; and

WHEREAS, It has been estimated that only one in five cases of elder and dependent adult abuse is reported because the victims are ashamed, helpless, or afraid of the abuser; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing suspected elder and dependent adult abuse through increased awareness is the first step toward the prevention of this type of abuse; and

WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adults are deserving of special consideration and protection, not unlike the special protections provided for minor children, because they are a vulnerable population that is often targeted by criminal predators; and

WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adults have the right to live safely, whether in their homes or in health care facilities, and to enjoy an optimum quality of life, while being protected from all forms of abuse; and

WHEREAS, Private citizens and public agencies must work both independently and collaboratively to combat crime and violence against elder and dependent adults; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has the responsibility to ensure that our “Greatest Generation,” which has given us so much, can live their lives with the dignity and respect they deserve; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims the month of May this year and every year thereafter as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.