

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 15, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 122**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Koretz**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Arambula, Baca, Bass, Benoit, Berg, Bermudez, Blakeslee, Bogh, Calderon, Canciamilla, Chan, Chavez, Chu, Cogdill, Cohn, Daucher, De La Torre, DeVore, Dymally, Emmerson, Evans, Frommer, Garcia, Goldberg, Hancock, Harman, Jerome Horton, Shirley Horton, Houston, Huff, Jones, Karnette, Keene, Klehs, La Malfa, La Suer, Laird, Leno, Leslie, Levine, Lieber, Lieu, Liu, Matthews, Maze, Montanez, Mountjoy, Mullin, Nakanishi, Nation, Nava, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Oropeza, Parra, Pavley, Plescia, Richman, Ridley-Thomas, Sharon Runner, Ruskin, Saldana, Salinas, Spitzer, Strickland, Torrico, Tran, Umberg, Vargas, Villines, Walters, Wolk, Wyland, and Yee)*

February 21, 2006

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 122—Relative to Guillain-Barré Syndrome.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 122, as amended, Koretz. Guillain-Barré Syndrome Awareness Month.

This measure would declare the month of May 2006, as Guillain-Barré Syndrome Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) is an
- 2 inflammatory disorder of the peripheral nerves that is the most

1 common cause of rapidly acquired paralysis in the United States,  
2 and attacks an estimated one to three of every 100,000 persons  
3 annually; and

4 WHEREAS, While rapidly acquired paralysis was first noted  
5 in medical journals throughout the 19th century, it was in the  
6 1916 writings of French physicians Georges Guillain and  
7 Jean-Alexandre Barré (along with neurologists Andre Strohl and  
8 Jean Landry), specialists in neurology, who first recognized the  
9 condition; and

10 WHEREAS, GBS typically begins with weakness, tingling, or  
11 loss of sensation that often begins in a patient's feet and legs and  
12 spreads to the upper body and arms; and

13 WHEREAS, Symptoms of GBS may also include moderate  
14 pain throughout the body, paralysis of legs, arms, respiratory  
15 muscles, and face, difficulty with eye movement, facial  
16 movement, speaking, chewing, or swallowing, very slow heart  
17 rate or low blood pressure, and difficulty with bladder control or  
18 intestinal functions; and

19 WHEREAS, These symptoms can appear in a patient over a  
20 period of three to four weeks, or may develop over the course of  
21 hours or days; and

22 WHEREAS, The cause of GBS is not known, but research  
23 indicates that it may be a disorder of the immune system. The  
24 immune system may destroy the protective covering of the  
25 peripheral nerves, severely slowing or completely disabling the  
26 nerves from transmitting signals to the muscles, triggering  
27 paralysis; and

28 WHEREAS, Approximately two-thirds of people affected by  
29 GBS have had a recent infectious illness, such as sore throat,  
30 diarrhea, cold, or flu; and

31 WHEREAS, There are multiple ways to test for GBS,  
32 including a spinal tap and an electrical test of nerve and muscle  
33 function, in addition to observation of a patient's symptoms, a  
34 physical exam, and an evaluation of the medical history; and

35 WHEREAS, No cure is known for GBS, but therapies can  
36 lessen the severity of the illness, treat complications, and  
37 accelerate recovery in most patients. Treatments include  
38 plasmapheresis, a "blood cleansing" procedure in which  
39 damaging antibodies are removed from the patient's blood,  
40 intravenous immunoglobulin, which contains healthy antibodies

1 from blood donors, creating excess antibodies that block the  
2 damaging antibodies in the patient's blood, and, less frequently,  
3 steroids; and

4 WHEREAS, The outlook for most GBS patients is positive,  
5 and about 75 to 85 percent of those affected recover after  
6 treatment and extensive physical therapy, with only minor,  
7 residual weakness or numbness; now, therefore, be it

8 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
9 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby declares the  
10 month of May 2006, as Guillain-Barré Syndrome Awareness  
11 Month, in order to raise public awareness about GBS, provide  
12 support and assistance to GBS patients and their families, and  
13 urge support for continued research; and be it further

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