

Assembly Bill No. 2317

Passed the Assembly May 31, 2006

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 17, 2006

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2006, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add and repeal Article 1.6 (commencing with Section 123259) of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to maternal health, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2317, Koretz. Postpartum mood and anxiety disorders.

Under existing law, the maternal and child health program includes provisions for pregnancy testing, perinatal health care, child health, and nutrition.

This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to conduct the Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD) Community Awareness Campaign to increase awareness and provide education to pregnant women and new mothers on postpartum mood and anxiety disorders, including postpartum depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and postpartum psychosis, as specified. The bill would require the department to convene a workgroup, which would be required, by June 1, 2008, to prepare and submit to the department specified recommendations relating to the implementation of the awareness campaign.

The bill would authorize the department to use nonpublic sources of funding to support the activities of the workgroup and fund the campaign. The bill would require that voluntary funds received for the purposes of this bill be deposited into the Community Postpartum Anxiety and Mood Disorders Awareness Campaign Fund, which the bill would create, and would continuously appropriate the moneys in the fund to the department to implement the awareness campaign.

The bill would further provide that if the Department of Finance determines that insufficient voluntary contributions for purposes of implementing these provisions have been deposited with the state by January 1, 2008, the Department of Finance shall notify either the Chief Clerk of the Assembly or the Secretary of the Senate of this fact, in which case these provisions would be repealed on January 1, 2008.

Appropriation: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Perinatal mood and anxiety disorders occur during pregnancy, as well as during the postpartum period. These disorders can take many forms, including depression, anxiety disorders, such as panic disorder or obsessive-compulsive disorder, and psychosis. Therefore, it is appropriate to use the broader, more accurate term of “perinatal mood and anxiety disorders” to describe the many levels and severities of these afflictions, which can have potentially serious repercussions for the emotional, social, and physical health and well-being of mothers, children, and families.

(b) Studies have shown that up to 80 percent of women around the world will experience an emotional change after giving birth, a normal postpartum adjustment known as “baby blues.”

(c) Between 10 and 20 percent of new mothers are affected by perinatal mood and anxiety disorders and may experience symptoms, including, but not limited to, depressed mood, inability to find pleasure in usually engaging activities, sleep disturbances, diminished concentration, appetite and weight loss, anxiety and panic attacks, feelings of guilt and worthlessness, suicidal thoughts, and fears about hurting their baby.

(d) One to two out of every 1,000 new mothers can experience postpartum psychosis, which may begin with manic states, hyperactivity, an inability to sleep, and avoidance of the baby, and may lead to delusions, hallucinations, incoherence, and thoughts of harming their baby or themselves.

(e) A past history of nonpostpartum mood or anxiety disorder and a family history of mood or anxiety disorder increases the risk of postpartum mood or anxiety disorders.

(f) Many women are not adequately informed about, screened for, and treated for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders or psychotic disorders because they are uninsured or underinsured and lack access to comprehensive health care. Many of these women also face cultural and linguistic barriers. Great numbers of at-risk women may not get help if they are not informed about perinatal mood, anxiety, and psychotic disorders as part of their health care, and because they are unaware of, or unable to access,

or, due to the stigma, have difficulty accepting the need for, services and treatment for perinatal mood disorders, which can include medical evaluations and treatment, professional therapy, counseling, support groups, and crisis hotlines. It is also imperative that family and friends of a pregnant woman or new mother become aware of the signs and symptoms of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders so that they may help her to obtain adequate medical treatment and support services.

SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would raise awareness regarding postpartum mood and anxiety disorders. The Legislature further recognizes that these disorders can affect all categories of mothers, regardless of their age, race, or income level, have a profound effect on families everywhere, and are very treatable with medication and therapy, or both.

SEC. 3. Article 1.6 (commencing with Section 123259) is added to Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

Article 1.6. Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders
Community Awareness Campaign

123259. The department shall conduct the Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD) Community Awareness Campaign to do all of the following:

(a) Provide awareness, assistance, and information regarding PMAD using television, print media, radio, Internet Web sites, outdoor advertising, and other media, where appropriate, to disseminate information to pregnant women and new mothers regarding the availability of services and treatment for PMAD, which may include medication, professional therapy and counseling, support groups, and telephone crisis hotlines.

(b) Establish an Internet Web site devoted to providing information about the symptoms and treatment of PMAD that is accessible to the general public.

(c) Undertake public education activities related to PMAD, as appropriate.

123259.1. (a) The department shall convene a workgroup to develop recommendations on the most efficient and effective ways to raise public awareness of the symptoms, warning signs,

and treatment of PMAD. The workgroup shall also be responsible for securing private contributions to fund the campaign. The workgroup may include a survivor of PMAD, and members from all of the following:

- (1) The California Medical Association.
- (2) The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.
- (3) The California Psychiatric Association.
- (4) Postpartum Support International.
- (5) The California Hospital Association.
- (6) The California Psychological Association.
- (7) The California Nurses Association.
- (8) The California Association for Nurse Practitioners.
- (9) The California Nurse Midwives Association.

(b) By January 1, 2008, the workgroup shall prepare and submit to the department its recommendations relating to the PMAD campaign.

(c) The department may use nonpublic sources of funding to support the activities of the workgroup and to fund the campaign. Voluntary contributions received for the purposes of this article shall be deposited into the Community Postpartum Anxiety and Mood Disorders Awareness Campaign Fund, which is hereby created in the State Treasury. Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, moneys in the fund are hereby continuously appropriated to the department to implement this article.

123259.2. (a) This article shall be implemented only after the Department of Finance determines that nonstate funds in an amount sufficient to fully support the activities of this article have been deposited with the state. Thereafter, this article shall continue to be implemented only to the extent that the Department of Finance determines that sufficient nonstate funds to fully support the activities of this article have been deposited with the state for purposes of this article.

(b) If the Department of Finance determines that insufficient voluntary contributions for purposes of implementing this article have been deposited with the state by January 1, 2008, the Department of Finance shall notify either the Chief Clerk of the Assembly or the Secretary of the Senate of this fact, in which case, upon the making of their notification, this article shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2008, and as of that date is

repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2008, deletes or extends that date.

Approved _____, 2006

Governor