

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 115

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 75

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 115—Relative to “Year of the Community.”

[Filed with Secretary of State June 30, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 115, Chesbro. Year of the Community and Developmental Disabilities.

This measure would proclaim the year 2006 as “Year of the Community” and would declare that the Legislature will actively promote the rights of persons with developmental disabilities and their full inclusion into community life.

WHEREAS, Forty years ago the State of California launched a bold experiment in public-private partnership that fundamentally changed and dramatically improved the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families and that would become a model for the nation; and

WHEREAS, The vision to enable people with developmental disabilities to live full, productive, and satisfying lives as active members of their communities was embodied in a statewide network of community-based services and supports with regional centers playing the role of the coordinating hub; and

WHEREAS, California’s first pilot regional centers for delivering services to persons with developmental disabilities, the Childrens Hospital at Los Angeles, and the San Francisco Aid for Retarded Children, which opened in 1966, marked the beginning of the regional center system; and

WHEREAS, By their achievements, the pilot centers proved the merit of the regional center concept and led to the introduction of Assembly Bill No. 225 in 1969, which enacted the Lanterman Mental Retardation Services Act of 1969, which is currently known as the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, and which established the statewide system of services for persons with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The statewide system was designed to be organized at the regional level and to produce a dynamic network of local services and supports; and

WHEREAS, The increased availability of services in the community precipitated the state’s shift from nearly total reliance on large state institutions to a regional service system in which more than 98 percent of

children and adults with developmental disabilities receive all of their needed services and supports in the community; and

WHEREAS, The regional center system was intended to provide services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities that are innovative and cost effective, that result in growth and development, that improve the quality of life, and that support inclusion into community life; and

WHEREAS, During the decades following the passage of the Lanterman Act, the service system's evolution was enabled by advances in knowledge and technology and by the increasing recognition of the right of people with disabilities to choice and full participation in society, including the rights of children to live at home with their families; and

WHEREAS, The 21 regional centers in California continue to expand and diversify their services while serving over 200,000 persons with developmental disabilities and their families; and

WHEREAS, The service system has grown increasingly complex, requirements for service providers have grown in sophistication, and expectations for services have become more rigorous due to advances in knowledge and technology; and

WHEREAS, The 40th anniversary of the regional center system is an appropriate time to reaffirm our commitment to the Lanterman Act, and renew our investment in the community system; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the year of 2006 as the "Year of the Community" and the beginning of a decade of renewed commitment to the vision of the Lanterman Act and investment in the community service system; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature will actively promote the rights of people with developmental disabilities and their full inclusion into community life in California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.