

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 112

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 154

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 112—Relative to a Legislative Task Force on Fibromyalgia.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 19, 2008.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 112, Dymally. Legislative Task Force on Fibromyalgia.

This measure would establish a Legislative Task Force on Fibromyalgia, consisting of specified members, to establish a public information and outreach campaign, promote fibromyalgia education and training programs for physicians and other health professionals, collaborate with a broad group of stakeholders, review current state policies and practices concerning treatment of fibromyalgia, develop a State Fibromyalgia Strategic Plan to be submitted to the Legislature by September 1, 2009, and hold a Fibromyalgia Summit during the 2009–10 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia is a significant health problem that affects an estimated 6 to 8 percent of Americans and countless thousands of Californians; and

WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia is a debilitating disease that fully disables thousands of Californians with symptoms that are chronic and include pain, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, migraine headaches, and impairment of memory and concentration; and

WHEREAS, Many fibromyalgia patients suffer for an average of five years before obtaining a correct diagnosis, which results in a worsened condition that is more debilitating and more difficult and expensive to treat; and

WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia is costly to California in both economic and social terms. With respect to the economic cost, an estimated \$1 billion in medical expenses, lost wages, and other associated economic costs can be attributed to fibromyalgia. With respect to the social cost, fibromyalgia impacts many families and children, as demonstrated by the fact that 80 percent of fibromyalgia patients are women; and

WHEREAS, Evidence indicates that the incidence of fibromyalgia may be increasing at a rapid rate; and

WHEREAS, A legislative task force on fibromyalgia is necessary to do all of the following:

(a) Promote public awareness of fibromyalgia, which is a widespread, but poorly understood, disease.

(b) Promote understanding of the importance of early diagnosis and proper treatment and management of fibromyalgia.

(c) Promote the delivery of appropriate information, programs, and services regarding fibromyalgia.

(d) Encourage research into the nature, cause, and treatment of fibromyalgia; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislative Task Force on Fibromyalgia is hereby established, which shall consist of 14 members, as follows:

(a) The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint to the task force one Member of the Assembly from the majority caucus and one Member of the Assembly from the minority caucus.

(b) The Senate Committee on Rules shall appoint to the task force one Member of the Senate from the majority caucus and one Member of the Senate from the minority caucus.

(c) The Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Committee on Rules shall each appoint five members to the task force. These 10 members shall include some who have demonstrated knowledge and an expertise in any of the following:

- (1) Fibromyalgia research.
- (2) Fibromyalgia prevention.
- (3) Fibromyalgia educational programs.
- (4) Fibromyalgia consumer needs; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Fibromyalgia Association shall convene the first meeting of the task force to elect officers; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Fibromyalgia Association shall supply supporting staff to the task force; and be it further

Resolved, That members of the task force shall not receive any compensation for serving on the task force; and be it further

Resolved, That the task force shall perform various functions regarding fibromyalgia, including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) Establishing a public information and outreach campaign targeting women between 20 and 50 years of age, that includes appropriate educational material aimed at promoting early diagnosis and treatment, preventing complications, improving quality of life at home and in the workplace, and addressing mental health and disability issues of fibromyalgia patients.

(b) Promoting fibromyalgia education and training programs for physicians and other health professionals.

(c) Collaborating with a broad group of stakeholders, reviewing current state policies and practices concerning treatment of fibromyalgia, and developing a State Fibromyalgia Strategic Plan for 2010 to 2020, inclusive. The plan shall be submitted to the Legislature by September 1, 2009.

(d) Holding a Fibromyalgia Summit during the 2009–10 Regular Session of the Legislature to make public the findings and progress of the Legislative Task Force on Fibromyalgia; and be it further

Resolved, That state funds shall not be used to support task force activities, but the task force may solicit funding from public and private foundations, and make use of available federal funds; and be it further

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

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