

**Introduced by Senator Negrete McLeod
(Coauthors: Senators Correa and Margett)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Dymally, Garcia, Sharon Runner, and Saldana)

March 10, 2008

Senate Joint Resolution No. 25—Relative to fibromyalgia.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 25, as introduced, Negrete McLeod. Fibromyalgia.

This measure would urge the Congress of the United States to accelerate the federal investment in fibromyalgia research at the National Institutes of Health, to ensure adequate Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement and coverage of fibromyalgia therapies, and to launch a multifaceted public awareness campaign on fibromyalgia.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia is defined by the American College
- 2 of Rheumatology as a disabling pain condition. Fibromyalgia
- 3 symptoms include chronic pain throughout the body, extreme
- 4 fatigue, sleep disorders, stiffness, weakness, migraine headaches,
- 5 and impairment of memory and concentration; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia is a common condition with no
- 7 known cure that affects women, men, and children of all ethnicities;
- 8 and
- 9 WHEREAS, An estimated 10 million people in the United
- 10 States, which is 6 to 8 percent of the country's population, and
- 11 millions of people worldwide have been diagnosed with
- 12 fibromyalgia; and

1 WHEREAS, There is no test for fibromyalgia, so it often takes
2 an average of five years to receive a diagnosis. Furthermore,
3 medical professionals are frequently inadequately educated on
4 diagnosis and treatment of fibromyalgia; and

5 WHEREAS, Many fibromyalgia patients find themselves
6 underinsured or uninsured because they are too sick to work or
7 have been denied health care coverage and access to treatments
8 because they have fibromyalgia; and

9 WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia costs the United States health care
10 system \$20 billion annually and strongly impacts families who
11 experience lost wages and extensive out-of-pocket medical costs;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The California Legislative Women’s Caucus
14 recognizes that 80 percent of fibromyalgia patients are women,
15 that hundreds of thousands of those affected by fibromyalgia live
16 in California, and that there is an urgent need to respond to the
17 vast needs of this patient population; and

18 WHEREAS, The California Legislative Women’s Caucus has
19 taken the National Fibromyalgia Association’s Pledge to Care by
20 advocating for improved treatments, expanded research,
21 comprehensive health insurance coverage, and increased awareness
22 of fibromyalgia; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
24 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully urges the
25 Congress of the United States to accelerate the federal investment
26 in fibromyalgia research at the National Institutes of Health, to
27 ensure adequate Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement and
28 coverage of fibromyalgia therapies, and to launch a multifaceted
29 public awareness campaign on fibromyalgia; and be it further

30 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
31 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
32 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
33 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
34 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
35 States.