

Senate Joint Resolution No. 25

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 117

Senate Joint Resolution No. 25—Relative to fibromyalgia.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 27, 2008.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 25, 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.

WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia is defined by the American College of Rheumatology as a disabling pain condition. Fibromyalgia symptoms include chronic pain throughout the body, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, stiffness, weakness, migraine headaches, and impairment of memory and concentration; and

WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia is a common condition with no known cure that affects women, men, and children of all ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 10 million people in the United States and millions of people worldwide have been diagnosed with fibromyalgia; and

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

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

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

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

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

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly,
That the Legislature respectfully urges 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; and be it further

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