

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 28

Introduced by Assembly Member Ma

February 19, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 28—Relative to Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 28, as introduced, Ma. Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

This measure would recognize the week of February 22 through February 28, 2009, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week and would encourage citizens and policymakers to learn more about eating disorders and the obstacles to treatment, and to help people overcome and prevent these life-threatening diseases. This measure also would urge the State Department of Public Health to undertake specified studies relating to eating disorders and make necessary or appropriate recommendation for legislation.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Ten million women and one million men across
2 the country are battling illnesses such as anorexia and bulimia,
3 and millions more are suffering from binge eating disorder; and
4 WHEREAS, An estimated 3.6 million women in California
5 alone struggle with an eating disorder; and
6 WHEREAS, Anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive overeating are
7 problems that are misunderstood, stigmatized, underfunded, and
8 undertreated; and
9 WHEREAS, Anorexia is the psychiatric disorder with the highest
10 mortality rate; and

1 WHEREAS, Anorexia is linked to an 18-fold increase in the
2 risk of death, with up to 20 percent of sufferers dying of
3 malnutrition and suicide; and

4 WHEREAS, Eating disorders are associated with substantial
5 psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse,
6 and suicide; and

7 WHEREAS, Eating disorders can lead to major medical
8 complications, including cardiac arrhythmia, cognitive impairment,
9 certain cancers, osteoporosis, infertility, kidney failure, and death;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Eating disorders affect persons of every race, color,
12 gender, and socioeconomic category; and

13 WHEREAS, Eating disorders are increasing among younger
14 age groups and affect children as young as seven years of age; and

15 WHEREAS, Media pressures and genetic, social, and familial
16 factors are all known to be related to eating disorders; and

17 WHEREAS, Many doctors feel pressured to prematurely
18 discharge patients with anorexia nervosa, placing patients in
19 life-threatening situations, because many insurance companies
20 disallow or limit reimbursements for treating eating disorders; and

21 WHEREAS, Many insurance companies continue to make a
22 common practice of delaying care, which leads to more severe
23 symptoms at admission, and prematurely terminating treatment of
24 eating disorders, even though these factors are linked to high rates
25 of relapse; and

26 WHEREAS, Eating disorders are treatable when diagnosed early
27 and treated sufficiently; and

28 WHEREAS, Eating disorders have become a public health crisis
29 that should be treated as seriously as the obesity epidemic; and

30 WHEREAS, The government should take a proactive role in
31 developing preventive education, improving access to care for all
32 forms of eating disorders, including binge eating and extreme
33 dieting, and making treatment available for persons already
34 suffering with eating disorders; and

35 WHEREAS, The California Legislature is concerned with
36 preserving and protecting the health of the state's citizens; now,
37 therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
39 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the week of
40 February 22 through February 28, 2009, as Eating Disorders

1 Awareness Week, and encourages citizens and policymakers to
2 learn more about eating disorders and the obstacles to treatment,
3 and to help people overcome and prevent these life-threatening
4 diseases; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the State Department of Public Health is urged
6 to undertake a study of the public health impact of eating disorders
7 in California, and the need for programs or policies to enhance
8 education, awareness, detection, and prevention of these diseases
9 in the general population; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the State Department of Public Health is urged
11 to undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems
12 mentioned in this resolution, or related thereto, and recommend
13 any necessary or appropriate legislation; and be it further

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

O