

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 28, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 10, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 150

Introduced by Assembly Member Carter

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Ammiano, Anderson, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Block, Blumenfeld, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Charles Calderon, Chesbro, Cook, Coto, Davis, De La Torre, De León, DeVore, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Fuller, Furutani, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gilmore, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Lieu, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Nava, Nestande, Niello, Nielsen, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Ruskin, Salas, Saldaña, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, Tran, Villines, and Yamada)

April 6, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 150—Relative to African American Mental Health Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 150, as amended, Carter. African American Mental Health Awareness Week.

This measure would recognize each 2nd week of February hereafter as African American Mental Health Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, According to the National Alliance on Mental
2 Health, some mental illnesses are more prevalent in the African
3 American community as compared to other cultures in the United
4 States; and

5 WHEREAS, African Americans suffer as a result of suicide,
6 depression, misdiagnosis, over use of involuntary hospitalization,
7 incarceration, and self-medication via substance abuse; and

8 WHEREAS, The Office of Minority Health reports that African
9 Americans are 30 percent more likely to report having serious
10 psychological distress than Whites, yet Whites are more likely to
11 receive treatment for a major depressive episode than African
12 Americans; and

13 WHEREAS, Suicide is the third leading cause of death for all
14 teens in the United States, and the third leading cause of death for
15 African American youth 15 to 19 years of age, inclusive. The
16 suicide rate among African Americans within the last 30 years has
17 increased dramatically. Between 1980 and 1995 the suicide rates
18 for African American youth 10 to 14 years of age, inclusive, has
19 increased by 233 percent, compared to 120 percent for comparable
20 Whites; and

21 WHEREAS, In the United States African Americans account
22 for only 2 percent of psychiatrists, 2 percent of psychologists, and
23 4 percent of social workers; and

24 WHEREAS, Children in the foster care and child welfare system
25 are more likely to develop mental illness, and African American
26 children comprise 45 percent of the foster care system; and

27 WHEREAS, Prison inmates are at high risk for developing
28 mental illness and less likely to be diagnosed with a mental illness,
29 and half of all prisoners in the United States are African American;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, The African American Mental Health Coalition is
32 committed to empowering African American communities by
33 promoting the benefits of mental health services, through education,
34 advocacy, policy development, raising awareness, and decreasing
35 the stigma surrounding mental health; and

36 WHEREAS, The African American Mental Health Coalition
37 has introduced creative and innovative community-based programs
38 and partnered with a variety of local community organizations to
39 help prevent improper interventions, misdiagnosis, involuntary

1 incarceration, and decrease the stigma related to mental health
2 issues in the African American community; and

3 WHEREAS, The African American Mental Health Coalition is
4 recognized as an important partner in the success of African
5 American Health Awareness Week, through its continued efforts
6 to provide services, information, and advocacy to individuals
7 throughout the African American community, and to make positive
8 changes by increasing awareness and eliminating barriers to care;
9 now, therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
11 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes each second
12 week of February hereafter as African American Mental Health
13 Awareness Week; 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.