

Introduced by Senator Wolk

August 17, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55—Relative to Health Care Decisions Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 55, as introduced, Wolk. Health Care Decisions Week.

This measure would recognize the week of October 25 through October 31, 2009, as Health Care Decisions Week in California, and would encourage all Californians to think, and talk with loved ones, about their wishes for medical care.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, It is important for people to make health care
- 2 decisions before they are needed; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Health care planning is a process, rather than a
- 4 single decision, that helps people think about the kind of care they
- 5 would want if they become seriously ill or incapacitated,
- 6 encourages them to talk with their loved ones and doctors, and
- 7 assists them in writing down their wishes; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Advance directives give people the ability to
- 9 document their wishes and identify the person to speak for them
- 10 should they become unable to speak for themselves; and
- 11 WHEREAS, A Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment
- 12 (POLST) form complements an advance directive by taking an
- 13 individual’s wishes regarding life-sustaining treatment and turning
- 14 those wishes into a medical order; and

1 WHEREAS, Introducing these issues in community settings can
2 help people begin conversations about their health care wishes
3 with a family member, close friend, doctor, or faith leader; and

4 WHEREAS, California has a number of local coalitions
5 throughout the state that are working to involve individuals and
6 families in health care planning through educational forums,
7 discussion groups, speaker's bureaus, and training; and

8 WHEREAS, The California Coalition for Compassionate Care
9 and more than 100 of the coalition's members representing health
10 care providers, consumers, regulators, and local coalitions have
11 joined together to sponsor a weeklong focus on health care
12 decisions; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
14 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the week of
15 October 25 through October 31, 2009, as Health Care Decisions
16 Week in California; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all Californians to
18 think, and talk with loved ones, about their wishes for medical
19 care; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
21 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.