

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 122

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

[Filed with Secretary of State September 25, 2009.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 55, 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.

WHEREAS, It is important for people to make health care decisions before they are needed; and

WHEREAS, Health care planning is a process, rather than a single decision, that helps people think about the kind of care they would want if they become seriously ill or incapacitated, encourages them to talk with their loved ones and doctors, and assists them in writing down their wishes; and

WHEREAS, Advance directives give people the ability to document their wishes and identify the person to speak for them should they become unable to speak for themselves; and

WHEREAS, A Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form complements an advance directive by taking an individual's wishes regarding life-sustaining treatment and turning those wishes into a medical order; and

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

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

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

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

Resolved, That the Legislature encourages all Californians to think, and talk with loved ones, about their wishes for medical care; and be it further
Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.