

Introduced by Senator Romero
(Coauthors: Senators Liu, Oropeza, and Pavley)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Huffman, Saldana, and Yamada)

May 11, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 110—Relative to Pain Awareness Month and Women In Pain Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 110, as introduced, Romero. Pain Awareness Month and Women In Pain Awareness Day.

This measure would recognize September 2010 as Pain Awareness Month and call upon all Californians to observe that month by learning how to improve the quality of life of Californians suffering from pain. This measure would also recognize September 17, 2010, as Women In Pain Awareness Day to draw public attention to the gender disparity in pain assessment and treatment in the United States.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, More than 75 million Americans live with chronic
- 2 pain caused by various diseases or disorders, and, each year, nearly
- 3 25 million Americans suffer with acute pain; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Though medical knowledge and technology exist
- 5 to relieve or greatly ease pain, most pain is untreated, undertreated,
- 6 or improperly treated, and many health care professionals are still
- 7 unaware of how to effectively treat pain; and
- 8 WHEREAS, People who suffer from chronic pain often are
- 9 stigmatized and marginalized and often are not informed about
- 10 the right to effective pain assessment and management, and most

1 people with pain, including those at the end of life, get little or no
2 relief; and

3 WHEREAS, Women have a higher prevalence than men of
4 chronic pain syndromes and diseases associated with chronic pain,
5 such as fibromyalgia, reflex sympathetic dystrophy, or
6 osteoarthritis, and women respond differently to certain analgesics;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Women's pain reports are taken less seriously than
9 those of men and women receive less aggressive treatment than
10 men for their pain; and

11 WHEREAS, Women have developed a number of coping
12 mechanisms to deal with pain, and this may contribute to a general
13 perception that they can endure more pain and that their pain does
14 not need to be taken as seriously; and

15 WHEREAS, Women more frequently report pain to a health
16 care provider, but are more likely to have their pain reports
17 discounted as emotional or psychogenic and, therefore, not real;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The California-based Partners for Understanding
20 Pain is a growing coalition of pain sufferers, physicians, nurses,
21 social workers, pharmacists, therapists, civic leaders, nonprofit
22 organizations, and health care businesses whose mission is to
23 improve the quality of life for people in California experiencing
24 pain; and

25 WHEREAS, It is the collective mission of this movement to
26 provide practical information for people with pain, inform health
27 care professionals about pain management, and serve as an
28 advocate for people experiencing pain; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of
31 September 2010 as Pain Awareness Month, and calls upon all
32 Californians to observe this month by participating in appropriate
33 ceremonies and activities, and by learning how to improve the
34 quality of life for people in California suffering from pain; and be
35 it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes September 17, 2010,
37 as Women In Pain Awareness Day to draw public attention to the
38 important need to raise awareness concerning gender disparity in
39 pain assessment and treatment in the United States; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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