

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 26

Introduced by Assembly Member Galgiani
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Atkins, Bonilla, Logue, Mansoor,
and Silva)
(Coauthors: Senators Hernandez and Strickland)

February 18, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 26—Relative to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 26, as introduced, Galgiani. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease awareness.

This measure would encourage the State Department of Health Care Services to partner with private entities to improve education regarding chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

This measure would also designate November 2011, as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month in California. This measure would also encourage public officials and the citizens of California to increase awareness of the symptoms of, and the methods of preventing, COPD.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD),
- 2 also known as chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is the fourth
- 3 leading cause of death in the United States and is the only one of
- 4 the top five causes of death whose prevalence and death rate is
- 5 rising; and

1 WHEREAS, COPD is a chronic and progressive disease that
2 impacts an estimated 24 million Americans each year,
3 approximately five million of whom are residents of California,
4 and an estimated 1.6 million of whom suffer directly from the
5 disease; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2004, the national annual cost for COPD was
7 estimated to be \$37 billion and in that same year, COPD caused
8 approximately 121,000 deaths nationwide; and

9 WHEREAS, Many patients suffering with COPD are not
10 diagnosed until they have reached an advanced stage of COPD,
11 which often includes a disabling degree of lung dysfunction; and

12 WHEREAS, A diagnostic test for COPD, known as spirometry,
13 is available for office use, allowing early diagnosis of COPD; and

14 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and management of COPD can
15 effectively reduce the overall financial burden of this illness on
16 publicly funded health care programs, including Medi-Cal; and

17 WHEREAS, Achieving early diagnosis and proper management
18 of COPD among California's diverse populations, within the
19 Medi-Cal program as well as other publicly funded health care
20 programs, requires overcoming cultural, language, and literacy
21 challenges; and

22 WHEREAS, Proper management of COPD can lead to an
23 improved quality of life and self-sufficiency for patients who
24 receive publicly funded benefits; and

25 WHEREAS, The "Healthy People 2010" project of the Centers
26 for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of
27 Health concludes that, while primary care physicians are in a key
28 position to provide optimal care to patients with COPD and to
29 provide counseling during clinical or health center visits, primary
30 care physicians need to be trained in the latest methods for
31 diagnosing and treating the disease; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
33 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages the State
34 Department of Health Care Services to, whenever possible, partner
35 with private entities to improve education regarding COPD; and
36 be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Legislature designates November 2011, as
38 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month in
39 California. The Legislature encourages public officials and the

- 1 citizens of California to increase awareness about the symptoms
- 2 of, and the methods of preventing, COPD; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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