

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 44**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Allen and Swanson**

April 4, 2011

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 44—Relative to Workers Memorial Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 44, as introduced, Allen. Workers Memorial Day.

This measure would encourage greater legal protection for workers and would recognize April 28, 2011, as Workers Memorial Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Every year tens of thousands of American workers  
2 are killed by workplace accidents and occupational disease; and  
3 WHEREAS, Millions of workers are injured or made ill  
4 annually, including tens of thousands who are permanently  
5 disabled; and  
6 WHEREAS, Decades of struggle by workers, their unions, and  
7 their allies in the community have resulted in significant  
8 improvements in working conditions; and  
9 WHEREAS, Forty years ago, Congress passed the United States  
10 Occupational Safety and Health Act, promising every worker the  
11 right to a safe job; and  
12 WHEREAS, America’s labor unions and their allies have fought  
13 hard to make that promise a reality, winning protections that have  
14 made jobs safer, saving hundreds of thousands of lives and  
15 preventing millions of workplace injuries and illnesses; and

1 WHEREAS, The State of California recognizes the critical  
2 importance of the state's own Occupational Safety and Health Act  
3 and related regulations, including the necessity of the vigorous  
4 and effective enforcement of those laws; and

5 WHEREAS, Since 1989, labor unions and their allies observe  
6 Workers Memorial Day to remember those who have suffered and  
7 died on the job, and to renew the fight for safe workplaces; and

8 WHEREAS, April 28 was chosen because it is the anniversary  
9 of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the day  
10 of a similar remembrance in Canada; and

11 WHEREAS, Trade unions and their supporters around the world  
12 now mark April 28 as an international day of mourning; and

13 WHEREAS, The State of California wishes to honor the  
14 hundreds of workers who are killed on the job every year in  
15 California, along with the many workers who suffer occupational  
16 injuries and illnesses in this state; and

17 WHEREAS, Concerned Californians are determined to prevent  
18 further tragedies by renewing our efforts to seek stronger health  
19 and safety protections, better standards and enforcement, and fair  
20 and just compensation; now, therefore, be it

21 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
22 *thereof concurring*, That the Members of the Legislature rededicate  
23 themselves to improving safety and health in every California  
24 workplace; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature supports passage of  
26 the Protecting America's Workers Act, to provide federal  
27 Occupational Safety and Health Act protection for all workers who  
28 currently lack protection, stronger criminal and civil penalties for  
29 companies that seriously violate job safety laws, and improved  
30 anti-retaliation protections for workers who raise job safety  
31 concerns; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature hereby officially  
33 recognizes April 28, 2011, as Workers Memorial Day, in  
34 recognition of workers killed, injured, or disabled on the job; and  
35 be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
37 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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