

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 30

Introduced by Assembly Member Pan

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Campos, Carter, Chesbro, Davis, Dickinson, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Gatto, Gordon, Hall, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Lara, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mitchell, Monning, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

March 7, 2012

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 30—Relative to Medicare.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 30, as amended, Pan. Medicare: dental care.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation that would add comprehensive, preventative dental care coverage to Medicare benefits.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, National Health Interview surveys from 1997 to
- 2 2009 found 24 to 30 percent of persons 65 years of age and older
- 3 were edentulous; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The surveys also found that during that period only
- 5 17 to 24 percent of older edentate persons, compared to 69 to 73
- 6 percent of older dentate persons, had a dental visit in the past year;
- 7 and

1 WHEREAS, Medicare does not currently provide for most dental
2 care; and
3 WHEREAS, Senior citizens, many living on a fixed income,
4 often cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs of dental care; and
5 WHEREAS, A study done in March 2005 by the State University
6 of New York, University at Buffalo’s School of Dental Medicine
7 found that cost was a major factor in senior citizens not obtaining
8 dental care; and
9 WHEREAS, Covering medical illnesses that are directly
10 correlated with poor dental health can be a significant expense for
11 Medicare; and
12 WHEREAS, Many of the diseases correlated with dental health
13 are preventable and could be avoided or mitigated through better
14 dental care; and
15 WHEREAS, Including dental coverage in Medicare benefits
16 will lower the program’s medical expenses as well as improve the
17 quality of life for senior citizen; now, therefore, be it
18 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
19 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully memorializes
20 the President and Congress of the United States to enact appropriate
21 legislation that would add comprehensive, preventative dental care
22 coverage to Medicare benefits; and be it further
23 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
24 of this measure to the President and Vice-President of the United
25 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
26 Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Chair of the Senate Special
27 Committee on Aging, and to each Senator and Representative from
28 California in the Congress of the United States.

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