

House Resolution

No. 25

Introduced by Assembly Member Buchanan

March 8, 2012

House Resolution No. 25—Relative to Prescription Drug Awareness Month.

1 WHEREAS, In 2008, drug overdoses in the United States caused
2 36,450 deaths and 20,044 of these were from prescription drug
3 overdoses; and

4 WHEREAS, Overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers
5 have increased and now exceed deaths involving heroin and cocaine
6 combined; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2009, 1.2 million emergency department visits
8 were related to misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals (an increase
9 of 98.4 percent since 2004); and

10 WHEREAS, Nonmedical use of opioid pain relievers costs
11 insurance companies up to \$72.5 billion annually in health care
12 costs; and

13 WHEREAS, By 2010, enough prescription painkillers were sold
14 to medicate every American adult with a typical dose of five mg
15 of hydrocodone every four hours for one month; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2010, 2 million people reported using
17 prescription painkillers nonmedically for the first time within the
18 last year—nearly 5,500 a day; and

19 WHEREAS, As many as 70 percent of people who abuse
20 prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a
21 doctor; and

22 WHEREAS, The National Coalition Against Prescription Drug
23 Abuse, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies,

1 community-based organizations, alcohol and other drugs service
2 providers, and civic and business leaders, coordinates Prescription
3 Drug Abuse Awareness Month activities to offer our citizens the
4 opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to campaigns and
5 education aimed at raising awareness about the abuse or misuse
6 of prescription drugs, promoting prescription drug safe storage
7 and disposal, and using medications only as prescribed; and
8 WHEREAS, Families, schools, businesses, faith-based
9 communities, law enforcement agencies, medical professionals,
10 county and local governments, health care practitioners,
11 pharmacists, and the general public throughout the state will
12 demonstrate their commitment to the prevention of prescription
13 medication abuse by participating in activities intended to highlight
14 local efforts during the month of March; now, therefore, be it
15 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
16 Assembly does hereby declare March 2012 as Prescription Drug
17 Abuse Awareness Month, and encourages all citizens to participate
18 in prevention programs and activities; and be it further
19 *Resolved*, That the Assembly encourages all community
20 members to “Spread the Word ... One Pill Can Kill”; and be it
21 further
22 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
23 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O