

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 110

Introduced by Assembly Member Fletcher
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Block, Ma, and
Wieckowski)

(Coauthors: Senators Correa, Evans, Fuller, and Steinberg)

February 14, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 110—Relative to California
Mental Health No Stigma Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 110, as introduced, Fletcher. California Mental Health No
Stigma Week.

This measure would declare the week of March 4, 2012, through
March 10, 2012, as California Mental Health No Stigma Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the state to increase
2 awareness regarding the negative stigma associated with mental
3 illness; and
4 WHEREAS, Stigma is a very real problem for people who have
5 a mental illness; and
6 WHEREAS, Every person needs and deserves to feel a sense
7 of belonging, and not be excluded or ostracized; and
8 WHEREAS, The most formidable obstacle to future progress
9 in the area of mental health is stigma, and the nation has the power
10 today to tear down that obstacle; and

1 WHEREAS, Throughout our great state, there are efforts by
2 public and private mental health agencies that work tirelessly to
3 educate the public about the harmful effects of stigma; and

4 WHEREAS, Some of the harmful effects of stigma include
5 trying to pretend nothing is wrong, refusal to seek treatment,
6 rejection by family and friends, work or school problems or
7 discrimination, difficulty finding housing, being subjected to
8 physical violence or harassment, and inadequate health insurance
9 coverage of mental illnesses; and

10 WHEREAS, Of California's approximately 36.8 million
11 residents, close to 1,175,000 adults live with a serious mental
12 illness and about 422,000 children live with serious mental health
13 conditions; and

14 WHEREAS, While one in five Americans live with a mental
15 disorder, estimates indicate that nearly two-thirds of all people
16 with a diagnosable mental illness do not seek treatment, especially
17 people from diverse communities; and

18 WHEREAS, Despite civil rights laws, such as the Americans
19 with Disabilities Act of 1990, people with mental illnesses often
20 experience discrimination in education, housing, health care, and
21 the workplace; and

22 WHEREAS, According to the California Mental Health Services
23 Oversight and Accountability Commission's report of 2007, a
24 public education campaign can improve the public's awareness of
25 unmet needs and reduce the harmful effects of stigma and
26 discrimination; now, therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
28 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the week of
29 March 4, 2012, through March 10, 2012, as California Mental
30 Health No Stigma Week; and be it further

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