

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 136

Introduced by Assembly Member Ma

March 21, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 136—Relative to Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 136, as amended, Ma. Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week.

This measure recognizes April 15 to April 21, 2012, inclusive, as “Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week.”

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In California, over 500,000 babies are born every
2 year; and

3 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes
4 that babies, infants, and toddlers are especially vulnerable to
5 abusive head trauma, also known as “Shaken Baby Syndrome,”
6 the pattern of injury that results from an act of violent shaking by
7 a parent or caregiver; and

8 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome and other inflicted head
9 trauma is now recognized as a leading cause of child fatalities
10 *among children who are physically abused*; and

11 WHEREAS, Researchers at the University of California, Irvine,
12 report that babies younger than five months of age are at the
13 greatest risk of injury and death due to abuse or neglect; and

1 WHEREAS, A 2003 report in the Journal of the American
2 Medical Association surveyed the incidence of Shaken Baby
3 Syndrome and estimated that an average of 300 children will die
4 each year from Shaken Baby Syndrome and 600 to 1,200 more
5 children will be injured; and

6 WHEREAS, Medical professionals believe that there are
7 thousands of cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome that are
8 misdiagnosed or undetected; and

9 WHEREAS, It is estimated that during an average year in
10 California, 220 to 280 children under five years of age will require
11 medical attention because of inflicted head injuries, and two-thirds
12 of these injuries are likely to occur in babies or infants younger
13 than one year of age; and

14 WHEREAS, Roughly one-third of the victims of Shaken Baby
15 Syndrome will suffer from developmental problems, including
16 partial or total blindness, hearing loss, seizures, speech and learning
17 difficulties, paralysis, and severe intellectual disability; and

18 WHEREAS, The infliction of injuries often occurs when a parent
19 or caregiver is not prepared to cope with the frustration and anger
20 that can result from the inconsolable crying of an infant or
21 unrealistic expectations of a child's behavior; and

22 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome and the injuries inflicted
23 are preventable; and

24 WHEREAS, The medical costs of treating Shaken Baby
25 Syndrome cases and the costs of rehabilitation services to surviving
26 infants average between \$18,000 and \$70,000 for initial
27 hospitalizations, and may exceed more than \$1,000,000 for the
28 care of a single disabled child over the course of his or her lifetime;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, The lifetime cost of the estimated 220 to 280
31 Shaken Baby Syndrome victims each year in California ranges
32 between \$78,000,000 and \$104,000,000; and

33 WHEREAS, The costs of those services are primarily paid by
34 the Medi-Cal program, which in the year 2000 paid for 42.4 percent
35 of births in the state, and by private health insurers, resulting in
36 higher taxes and higher health insurance costs for all citizens of
37 the state; and

38 WHEREAS, At least 75 percent of Shaken Baby Syndrome
39 victims are Medi-Cal recipients when they are diagnosed; and

1 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome cases further impose costs
2 to communities in many ways, including the investigation and
3 prosecution of Shaken Baby Syndrome cases, the tragic disruption
4 of families, and the special education needs that are frequently
5 required by those who have survived even modest head traumas;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome prevention programs have
8 demonstrated that educating new parents about the danger of
9 shaking young children and how they can help protect their child
10 from injury can effect a significant reduction in the number of
11 Shaken Baby Syndrome cases; and

12 WHEREAS, The minimal costs and effort of these educational
13 and preventative programs avert enormous medical and disability
14 costs and untold grief for many families; and

15 WHEREAS, Efforts to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome are
16 supported by numerous organizations, including the National
17 Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome, the San Francisco Shaken Baby
18 Syndrome Prevention Project, the San Francisco Child Abuse
19 Prevention Center, the Hannah Rose Foundation, and the Greater
20 Bay Area Child Abuse Prevention Council Coalition; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 *Resolved, by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
23 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature strongly supports efforts
24 to protect our children, especially through education and awareness
25 activities that enable parents to keep their children safe from injury
26 and neglect; and be it further

27 *Resolved,* That the Legislature recognizes the week of April 15
28 to April 21, 2012, inclusive, as “Shaken Baby Syndrome
29 Awareness Week” in the State of California; and be it further

30 *Resolved,* That the Legislature requests that the Governor
31 proclaim the week of April 15 to April 21, 2012, inclusive, as
32 “Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week” in the State of
33 California; and be it further

34 *Resolved,* That the Legislature shall undertake, and encourages
35 the Governor to undertake, all practicable efforts to educate new
36 parents, child care providers, foster and adoptive parents,
37 babysitters, and other persons who care for our children about
38 Shaken Baby Syndrome, including the causes and consequences
39 of shaking injuries, the need to be prepared to cope with frustration
40 and anger, and the need to educate ~~all other caregivers of a child~~

- 1 ~~about the danger of shaking and~~ *on* ways they can *to* help protect
- 2 ~~that child~~ *children* from injury; 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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