

Introduced by Senators Hancock, Anderson, and DeSaulnier

February 21, 2012

Senate Resolution No. 26—Relative to Prescription Drug Abuse 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 (OPR) have increased and now exceed deaths involving heroin
6 and cocaine 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 OPR costs insurance companies
11 up to \$72.5 billion annually in health care costs; and
12 WHEREAS, By 2010, enough prescription painkillers were sold
13 to medicate every American adult with a typical dose of five mg
14 of hydrocodone every four hours for one month; and
15 WHEREAS, In 2010, 2 million people reported using
16 prescription painkillers nonmedically for the first time within the
17 last year—nearly 5,500 a day; and
18 WHEREAS, As many as 70 percent of people who abuse
19 prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a
20 doctor; and
21 WHEREAS, The National Coalition Against Prescription Drug
22 Abuse, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies,
23 community-based organizations, alcohol and other drugs service
24 providers, and civic and business leaders, coordinates Prescription
25 Drug Abuse Month activities to offer our citizens the opportunity

1 to demonstrate their commitment to campaigns and education
2 aimed at raising awareness about the abuse or misuse of
3 prescription drugs, promoting prescription drug safe storage and
4 disposal, and using medications only as prescribed; and

5 WHEREAS, Families, schools, businesses, faith-based
6 communities, law enforcement, medical professionals, county and
7 local governments, health care practitioners, pharmacists, and the
8 general public throughout the state will demonstrate their
9 commitment to the prevention of prescription medication abuse
10 by participating in activities intended to highlight local efforts
11 during the month of March; now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate
13 does hereby declare March 2012 as Prescription Drug Abuse
14 Awareness Month, and encourages all citizens to participate in
15 prevention programs and activities. Be it also resolved that the
16 State of California encourages all community members to pledge
17 “Spread the Word ... One Pill Can Kill”; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
19 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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22 **CORRECTIONS:**

23 **Heading—Lines 1 and 2.**

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