

Introduced by Senator Alquist

August 15, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 54—Relative to Pain Awareness Month and Women In Pain Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 54, as introduced, Alquist. Pain Awareness Month and Women In Pain Awareness Day.

This measure would recognize September 2011 as Pain Awareness Month and call upon all Californians to observe that month by learning how to improve the quality of life of Californians suffering from pain. This measure would also recognize September 16, 2011, as Women In Pain Awareness Day to draw public attention to the gender disparity in pain assessment and treatment in the United States.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, More than 75 million Americans live with chronic
- 2 pain caused by various diseases or disorders, and, each year, nearly
- 3 25 million Americans suffer with acute pain; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Though medical knowledge and technology exist
- 5 to relieve or greatly ease pain, most pain is untreated, undertreated,
- 6 or improperly treated, and many health care professionals are still
- 7 unaware of how to effectively treat pain; and
- 8 WHEREAS, People who suffer from chronic pain often are
- 9 stigmatized and marginalized and often are not informed about
- 10 the right to effective pain assessment and management, and most
- 11 people with pain, including those at the end of life, get little or no
- 12 relief; and

1 WHEREAS, Women have a higher prevalence than men of
2 chronic pain syndromes and diseases associated with chronic pain,
3 such as fibromyalgia, reflex sympathetic dystrophy, or
4 osteoarthritis, and women respond differently to certain analgesics;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Women's pain reports are taken less seriously than
7 those of men and women receive less aggressive treatment than
8 men for their pain; and

9 WHEREAS, Women have developed a number of coping
10 mechanisms to deal with pain, and this may contribute to a general
11 perception that they can endure more pain and that their pain does
12 not need to be taken as seriously; and

13 WHEREAS, Women more frequently report pain to a health
14 care provider, but are more likely to have their pain reports
15 discounted as emotional or psychogenic and, therefore, not real;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The California-based Partners for Understanding
18 Pain is a growing coalition of pain sufferers, physicians, nurses,
19 social workers, pharmacists, therapists, civic leaders, nonprofit
20 organizations, and health care businesses whose mission is to
21 improve the quality of life for people in California experiencing
22 pain; and

23 WHEREAS, It is the collective mission of this movement to
24 provide practical information for people with pain, inform health
25 care professionals about pain management, and serve as an
26 advocate for people experiencing pain; now, therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
28 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of
29 September 2011 as Pain Awareness Month, and calls upon all
30 Californians to observe this month by participating in appropriate
31 ceremonies and activities, and by learning how to improve the
32 quality of life for people in California suffering from pain; and be
33 it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes September 16, 2011,
35 as Women In Pain Awareness Day to draw public attention to the
36 important need to raise awareness concerning gender disparity in
37 pain assessment and treatment in the United States; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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