

Introduced by Senator Liu

February 13, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 65—Relative to Pain Awareness Month and Women In Pain Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 65, as introduced, Liu. Pain Awareness Month and Women In Pain Awareness Day.

This measure would recognize September 2012 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 14, 2012, as Women In Pain Awareness Day to draw public attention to gender disparity in pain assessment and treatment in the United States.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, More than 116 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, complex pain syndrome, or osteoarthritis,
4 and women respond differently to certain analgesics; and

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

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

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

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

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

26 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of
28 September 2012 as Pain Awareness Month, and calls upon all
29 Californians to observe this month by participating in appropriate
30 ceremonies and activities, and by learning how to improve the
31 quality of life for people in California suffering from pain; and be
32 it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes September 14, 2012,
34 as Women In Pain Awareness Day to draw public attention to the
35 important need to raise awareness concerning gender disparity in
36 pain assessment and treatment in the United States; and be it further

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

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