

Introduced by Senator Steinberg

April 16, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 83—Relative to National Aphasia Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 83, as introduced, Steinberg. National Aphasia Awareness Month.

This measure would declare that the Legislature recognizes June of each year as National Aphasia Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Aphasia is a communication impairment caused
2 by brain damage, typically resulting from a stroke; and
3 WHEREAS, While aphasia is most often the result of stroke or
4 brain injury, it can also occur in other neurological disorders, such
5 as in the case of a brain tumor; and
6 WHEREAS, Many people with aphasia also have weakness or
7 paralysis in their right leg and right arm, usually due to damage
8 to the left hemisphere of the brain, which controls language and
9 movement on the right side of the body; and
10 WHEREAS, The effects of aphasia may include a loss or
11 reduction in ability to speak, comprehend, read, and write, while
12 intelligence remains intact; and
13 WHEREAS, Stroke is the third largest cause of death, ranking
14 behind “diseases of the heart” and all forms of cancer; and
15 WHEREAS, Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term
16 disability in the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, There are about 4.8 million stroke survivors alive
2 today; and

3 WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are about 700,000 strokes
4 per year in the United States, with approximately one third of these
5 resulting in aphasia; and

6 WHEREAS, Aphasia affects at least 1,000,000 people in the
7 United States; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 200,000 Americans acquire the disorder
9 each year; and

10 WHEREAS, The National Aphasia Association is unique. Its
11 mission is to educate the public to know that the word “aphasia”
12 describes an impairment of the ability to communicate, not an
13 impairment of intellect. The National Aphasia Association makes
14 people with aphasia, their families and support systems, and health
15 care professionals aware of the resources available to assist them
16 to recover lost skills to the extent possible, to compensate for skills
17 that will not be recovered, and to minimize the psychosocial impact
18 of the language impairment; and

19 WHEREAS, As an advocacy organization for people with
20 aphasia and their caregivers, the National Aphasia Association
21 envisions a society in which “aphasia” is a commonly understood
22 word and resources are available for educating people with aphasia,
23 their families, health care professionals, and the public on how
24 people with aphasia can reclaim their quality of life; now, therefore,
25 be it

26 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes June of each
28 year as National Aphasia Awareness Month; and be it further

29 Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
30 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.