

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 20, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 47

Introduced by Assembly Member Skinner

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Ammiano, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Cooley, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gordon, Gorell, Grove, Hagman, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Levine, Linder, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Melendez, Mitchell, Morrell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Salas, Stone, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, and Yamada)

April 17, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 47—Relative to Commotio Cordis Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 47, as amended, Skinner. Commotio Cordis Awareness Week.

This measure would declare the week of June 1, 2013, to June 7, 2013, as Commotio Cordis Awareness Week and encourage all Californians, particularly young athletes, their families, coaches, school and youth sports league officials, and medical personnel, to learn about the risks of, and treatments for, commotio cordis.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Commotio cordis is a rare and potentially fatal
2 cardiac arrhythmia that occurs when there is a sudden, often
3 seemingly innocuous, blow to the chest that disrupts the electrical
4 rhythm of an otherwise healthy heart; and

5 WHEREAS, Commotio cordis occurs most often during sports,
6 when athletes are at risk of being struck in the chest by a firm
7 projectile, such as a baseball, softball, lacrosse ball, hockey puck,
8 or soccer ball, or by another athlete, as in football, martial arts, or
9 cheerleading; and

10 WHEREAS, Commotio cordis disproportionately affects
11 children and young adults, and it is one of the leading causes of
12 sudden cardiac death among young athletes. The average age of
13 those affected is 16 years, and 90 percent of those affected are
14 under 25 years of age; and

15 WHEREAS, There have been 250 reported cases of death from
16 commotio cordis in the United States in the past 16 years, which
17 is more than the total number of deaths from all sports-related head
18 injuries; and

19 WHEREAS, The risk of commotio cordis can be reduced
20 through simple interventions, including (1) education on avoiding
21 direct blows to the breastbone, (2) improved recognition and
22 prompt resuscitation with cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
23 and an automated external defibrillator (AED), and (3) increased
24 availability of AEDs and medical personnel, including certified
25 athletic trainers at youth sporting venues; and

26 WHEREAS, If an electrical shock from an AED is delivered to
27 someone having a commotio cordis attack within three minutes,
28 there is a 40 percent chance of survival, but if use of an AED is
29 delayed more than three minutes, the survival rate drops to 5
30 percent; and

31 WHEREAS, Commotio cordis was first identified as a cause of
32 sudden death in 1932, and the survival rate has increased
33 dramatically with growing public awareness and improved safety
34 measures. A comprehensive study revealed that while only 10
35 percent of patients survived from 1970 to 1993, 35 percent survived
36 between 1994 and 2012, and in the last six years, 58 percent of
37 patients have survived commotio cordis events; and

38 WHEREAS, Public awareness of this condition remains
39 relatively low, which leads to delayed management and a higher
40 incidence of deaths; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby declares the week
3 of June 1, 2013, to June 7, 2013, to be Commotio Cordis
4 Awareness Week and encourages all Californians, and particularly
5 young athletes, their families, coaches, school and youth sports
6 league officials, and medical personnel, to learn about the risks
7 of, and treatments for, commotio cordis; and be it further
8 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
9 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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