

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 81

Introduced by Assembly Member Mitchell

August 28, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 81—Relative to Senior Fraud Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 81, as introduced, Mitchell. Senior Fraud Awareness Day.

This measure would proclaim November 13, 2013, as Senior Fraud Awareness Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, As the population ages and more Americans
2 become senior citizens with life savings, they become greater
3 targets for fraud and deception. The ease of access for criminals
4 to contact seniors through the Internet and telephone increases as
5 more creative schemes emerge; and

6 WHEREAS, Senior fraud is a growing concern as millions have
7 fallen victim to scams, including Medicare scams, sweepstakes
8 and lottery scams, investment and work at home scams,
9 bereavement scams, identity theft, charity scams, granny scams,
10 and home repair scams. Seniors citizens average one scam-type
11 letter and two telemarketing phone calls per week; and

12 WHEREAS, Senior fraud is underreported due to older adults'
13 embarrassment and lack of information about where to report fraud;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, There are about 5 million cases of financial
16 exploitation of the elderly in the United States each year. The

1 financial loss by victims is more than \$42.9 billion dollars annually
2 for reported cases; and

3 WHEREAS, Caregivers, scam artists, and unscrupulous
4 salespersons are the primary instigators of senior fraud. The tactics
5 used are intimidation, fear, friendliness, authority, and control to
6 get the victim to send money or share private financial information;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, As senior citizens own more than half of all the
9 financial assets in America, they are the primary targets for
10 fraudulent practices. It is estimated by the United States House of
11 Representatives Subcommittee on Health and Long-Term Care
12 that even though seniors only represent 12 percent of the
13 population, they represent 30 percent of the scam victims; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Corporations, it
15 is estimated that 70 percent of Californians over 50 years of age
16 have been solicited by someone with the intent to defraud them;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The Los Angeles City Council commended
19 Adrienne Omansky's Stop Senior Scams Acting Program, in which
20 over 35 students from the Los Angeles Unified School District's
21 Programs for Older Adults have performed at numerous venues
22 their 30-minute skit informing older adults about current scams
23 that target the older adult population, and the city council declared
24 May 15, 2013, as "Senior Fraud Awareness Day" in Los Angeles;
25 now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims
28 November 13, 2013, as Senior Fraud Awareness Day; and be it
29 further

30 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
31 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.