

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 28

Introduced by Senator Block

(Coauthors: Senators Correa, De León, Leno, and Steinberg)

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

April 1, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28—Relative to California Mental Health No Stigma Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 28, as amended, Block. California Mental Health No Stigma Week.

This measure would declare May 6, 2013, to May 12, 2013, inclusive, and the first full week of May of every year thereafter, commencing with a Monday, as California Mental Health No Stigma Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the state to increase
2 awareness regarding the negative stigma associated with mental
3 illness; and

4 WHEREAS, Stigma is a very real problem for people who have
5 a mental illness; and

6 WHEREAS, Every person needs and deserves to feel a sense
7 of belonging, and not be excluded or ostracized; and

8 WHEREAS, The most formidable obstacle to future progress
9 in the area of mental health is stigma, and today, the nation has
10 the power to tear down that obstacle; and

11 WHEREAS, Throughout our great state, there are efforts by
12 public and private mental health agencies that work tirelessly to
13 educate the public about the harmful effects of stigma; and

14 WHEREAS, Some of the harmful effects of stigma include
15 trying to pretend nothing is wrong, refusal to seek treatment,
16 rejection by family and friends, work or school problems or
17 discrimination, difficulty finding housing, being subjected to
18 physical violence or harassment, and inadequate health insurance
19 coverage of mental illnesses; and

20 WHEREAS, Of California's approximately 36.8 million
21 residents, close to 1,175,000 adults live with a serious mental
22 illness and about 422,000 children live with serious mental health
23 conditions; and

24 WHEREAS, While one in five Americans lives with a mental
25 disorder, estimates indicate that nearly two-thirds of all people
26 with a diagnosable mental illness do not seek treatment, especially
27 people from diverse communities; and

28 WHEREAS, Despite civil rights laws, such as the Americans
29 with Disabilities Act of 1990, people with mental illnesses often
30 experience discrimination in education, housing, health care, and
31 the workplace; and

32 WHEREAS, According to the California Mental Health Services
33 Oversight and Accountability Commission's report of 2007, a
34 public education campaign can improve the public's awareness of
35 unmet needs and reduce the harmful effects of stigma and
36 discrimination; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
38 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the week of
39 May 6, 2013, to May 12, 2013, inclusive, and the first full week

- 1 of May of every year thereafter, commencing with a Monday, as
- 2 California Mental Health No Stigma Week; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 4 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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