

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 15, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 8

Introduced by Senator DeSaulnier

**(Coauthors: Senators *Block, Cannella, Correa, Hancock, Hill, Lieu,*
and Price Monning, Pavley, Price, Walters, and Wolk)**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Bloom, Blumenfield, Brown,
Fox, Nestande, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk-Silva, Salas, Ting, Wagner,
Waldron, and Wilk)*

January 14, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8—Relative to Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 8, as amended, DeSaulnier. Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of March, each year, as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month and encourage all citizens to participate in prevention programs and activities and to pledge to “Spread the Word ... One Pill Can Kill.”

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 2008, drug overdoses in the United States caused
- 2 36,450 deaths and 20,044 of these were from prescription drug
- 3 overdoses; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers
- 5 (OPR) have increased and now exceed deaths involving heroin
- 6 and cocaine combined; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2009, 1.2 million emergency department visits
2 were related to misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals (an increase
3 of 98.4 percent since 2004); and

4 WHEREAS, Nonmedical use of OPR costs insurance companies
5 up to \$72.5 billion annually in health care costs; and

6 WHEREAS, By 2010, enough prescription painkillers were sold
7 to medicate every American adult with a typical dose of five
8 milligrams of hydrocodone every four hours for one month; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2010, 2 million people reported using
10 prescription painkillers nonmedically for the first time within the
11 last year—nearly 5,500 a day; and

12 WHEREAS, As many as 70 percent of people who abuse
13 prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a
14 doctor; and

15 WHEREAS, The National Coalition Against Prescription Drug
16 Abuse, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies,
17 community-based organizations, alcohol and other drug service
18 providers, and civic and business leaders, coordinates Prescription
19 Drug Abuse Awareness Month activities to offer our citizens the
20 opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to campaigns and
21 education aimed at raising awareness about the abuse and misuse
22 of prescription drugs, promoting safe storage and disposal of
23 prescription drugs, and using medications only as prescribed; and

24 WHEREAS, Families, schools, businesses, faith-based
25 communities, law enforcement, medical professionals, county and
26 local governments, health care practitioners, pharmacists, and the
27 general public throughout the state will demonstrate their
28 commitment to the prevention of prescription medication abuse
29 by participating in activities intended to highlight local efforts
30 during the month of March; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
32 *thereof concurring*, That the month of March, each year, is hereby
33 ~~be~~ proclaimed to be Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month
34 and that all citizens are encouraged to participate in prevention
35 programs and activities and to pledge to “Spread the Word ... One
36 Pill Can Kill”; 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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