

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 18, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 15, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 8

Introduced by Senator DeSaulnier

(Coauthors: Senators Block, Cannella, Correa, Hancock, Hill, Lieu, 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 Will~~ *Wilk, Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Atkins, Bigelow, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eggman, Fong, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Grove, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Melendez, Mitchell, Morrell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, Quirk, Rendon, Skinner, Stone, Torres, Weber, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada*)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
38 *thereof concurring,* That the month of March, each year, is hereby

1 proclaimed to be Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month and
2 that all citizens are encouraged to participate in prevention
3 programs and activities and to pledge to “Spread the Word ... One
4 Pill Can Kill”; and be it further
5 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
6 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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