

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 109

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 119

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 109—Relative to National STD Awareness Month and National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 20, 2014.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 109, Lara. National STD Awareness Month and National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day.

This measure would provide that the Legislature recognizes April 2014 as National STD Awareness Month, and recognizes April 10, 2014, as National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day.

WHEREAS, Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are a significant health challenge facing the United States. New data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest that there are more than 110 million total new and existing infections among men and women across the nation; and

WHEREAS, According to the CDC, there are an estimated 20 million new infections of STDs annually; and

WHEREAS, STDs place a significant economic strain on the United States' health care system. The CDC conservatively estimates that the lifetime cost of treating eight of the most common STDs contracted in just one year is \$15.6 billion; and

WHEREAS, Many infections go undetected because they often have no symptoms, but even STDs that do not have symptoms can have serious health consequences. Undiagnosed and untreated infections cause 24,000 women to become infertile each year; and

WHEREAS, Young people are disproportionately at risk of infection. In 2013, Americans 15 to 24 years of age, inclusive, made up just 27 percent of the sexually active population, but accounted for 50 percent of the 20 million new STDs in the United States that year; and

WHEREAS, Stigma, inconsistent or incorrect condom use, limited access to health care, and a combination of other factors contribute to high rates of STDs among teens and young adults. In the United States, almost 40 percent of new HIV infections are young people 13 to 29 years of age, inclusive; and

WHEREAS, Some school districts provide condoms free of charge to students through condom availability programs. Condoms are a proven method for reducing transmission of STDs, including HIV; and

WHEREAS, Consistent and correct use of male latex condoms can reduce, though not eliminate, the risk of STD transmission. Other effective strategies

for reducing STD risk include abstinence from sex, mutual monogamy, reducing the number of sexual partners, and vaccination for certain diseases; and

WHEREAS, For all individuals who are sexually active, particularly young people, STD screening and prompt treatment, if infected, are critical to protect a person's health and prevent transmission to others; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes April as National STD Awareness Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature recognizes April 10, 2014, as National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.