

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 11, 2014

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 129**

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**Introduced by Senator Liu**  
**(~~Coauthor: Senator~~ *Coauthors: Senators Pavley and Wolk*)**

June 11, 2014

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 129—Relative to Pain Awareness Month and Women In Pain Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 129, as amended, Liu. Pain Awareness Month and Women In Pain Awareness Day.

This measure would recognize September 2014 as Pain Awareness Month and call upon all Californians to observe that month by learning how to improve the quality of life of Californians suffering from pain. This measure would also recognize September 12, 2014, as Women In Pain Awareness Day to draw public attention to gender disparity in pain assessment and treatment in the United States.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, More than 100 million Americans live with chronic  
2 pain caused by various diseases or disorders, ~~and, each year, and~~  
3 nearly 25 million Americans suffer with acute pain *each year*; and  
4 WHEREAS, Though medical knowledge and technology exist  
5 to relieve or greatly ease pain, most pain is untreated, undertreated,  
6 or improperly treated, and many health care professionals are still  
7 unaware of how to effectively treat pain; and  
8 WHEREAS, People who suffer from chronic pain often are  
9 stigmatized and marginalized and often are not informed about  
10 the right to effective pain assessment and management, and most

1 people with pain, including those at the end of life, get little or no  
2 relief; and

3 WHEREAS, Women have a higher prevalence than men of  
4 chronic pain syndromes and diseases associated with chronic pain,  
5 such as fibromyalgia, complex pain syndrome, and osteoarthritis,  
6 and women respond differently to certain analgesics; and

7 WHEREAS, Women's pain reports are taken less seriously than  
8 those of men, and women receive less aggressive treatment than  
9 men for their pain; and

10 WHEREAS, Women have developed a number of coping  
11 mechanisms to deal with pain, and this may contribute to a general  
12 perception that they can endure more pain and that their pain does  
13 not need to be taken as seriously; and

14 WHEREAS, Women more frequently report pain to a health  
15 care provider, but are more likely to have their pain reports  
16 discounted as emotional or psychogenic and, therefore, not real;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The California-based Partners for Understanding  
19 Pain is a coalition of pain sufferers, physicians, nurses, social  
20 workers, pharmacists, therapists, civic leaders, nonprofit  
21 organizations, and health care businesses whose mission is to  
22 improve the quality of life for people in California experiencing  
23 pain; and

24 WHEREAS, It is the collective mission of this movement to  
25 provide practical information for people with pain, inform health  
26 care professionals about pain management, and serve as an  
27 advocate for people experiencing pain; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of  
30 September 2014 as Pain Awareness Month, and calls upon all  
31 Californians to observe this month by participating in appropriate  
32 ceremonies and activities, and by learning how to improve the  
33 quality of life for people in California suffering from pain; and be  
34 it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes September 12, 2014,  
36 as Women In Pain Awareness Day to draw public attention to the  
37 important need to raise awareness concerning gender disparity in  
38 pain assessment and treatment in the United States; and be it further

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

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