

**Introduced by Senator Fuller**

January 16, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11—Relative to Chiari Malformation Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 11, as introduced, Fuller. Chiari Malformation Awareness Month.

This measure would declare the month of September 2015 as Chiari Malformation Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Chiari Malformation is a serious neurological
- 2 disorder affecting more than 300,000 people in the United States;
- 3 and
- 4 WHEREAS, Chiari Malformation was first identified by
- 5 Austrian pathologist Professor Hans Chiari in the 1890's and
- 6 categorized into four types in order of severity; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Chiari Malformation is a congenital malformation
- 8 in which the bottom of the brain, known as the cerebellum, is
- 9 crowded in the skull cavity and forces the lower tips of the
- 10 cerebellar hemispheres, or tonsils, into the hole in the bottom of
- 11 the skull, or foramen magnum; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Chiari Malformations are defects in the cerebellum,
- 13 the part of the brain that controls balance, and this creates pressure
- 14 on the cerebellum and brain stem and may block the normal flow
- 15 of cerebral spinal fluid to and from the brain; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Symptoms usually appear during adolescence or
- 17 early adulthood and can include severe head and neck pain, vertigo,

1 muscle weakness, balance problems, blurred or double vision,  
2 difficulty swallowing, and sleep apnea; and

3 WHEREAS, Individuals who have Chiari Malformation may  
4 often have related conditions, such as hydrocephalus, spina bifida,  
5 syringomyelia, tethered spinal cord syndrome, and spinal curvature;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The National Institute of Neurological Disorders  
8 and Stroke of the National Institute of Health is conducting research  
9 to find alternative surgical options and identify the cause of Chiari  
10 Malformations to create improved treatment and prevention plans;  
11 now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
13 *thereof concurring,* That the California Legislature declares  
14 September 2015 as Chiari Malformation Awareness Month; and  
15 be it further

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