

Introduced by Senators Jackson, Monning, and Wolk

March 5, 2015

Senate Resolution No. 17—Relative to California Health Care Decisions Day.

1 WHEREAS, The State of California places the highest priority
2 on the health and well-being of all its citizens; and
3 WHEREAS, Honoring patient preferences is a critical element
4 in providing quality end-of-life care; and
5 WHEREAS, Every adult has the right to decide his or her own
6 health care treatment, and, after discussions with loved ones about
7 preferences, should appoint a person who he or she trusts as health
8 care agent or surrogate in order to make health care decisions for
9 him or her in the event of incapacity, by executing advance health
10 care planning documents; and
11 WHEREAS, It is also essential that all adults discuss their health
12 care wishes with their health care providers, and provide their
13 health care providers with copies of their advance health care
14 planning documents so that their health care decisions can be
15 honored if or when they become incapacitated; and
16 WHEREAS, It is important that seriously ill persons, or their
17 designated health care agents or surrogates, work with their
18 physicians and consider completing Physicians Orders for
19 Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms if they want to avoid
20 or receive any or all life-sustaining treatments, reside in a long-term
21 care facility, or require long-term care services and might die
22 within the next year; and
23 WHEREAS, The National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD)
24 initiative is a collaborative effort of national, state, and community

1 organizations created to inspire, educate, and empower the public
2 and providers about the importance of advance care planning; and
3 WHEREAS, The NHDD coalition has promoted National
4 Healthcare Decisions Day and is committed to ensuring that all
5 adults with decisionmaking capacity have the information and
6 opportunity to communicate and document their health care
7 decisions by aiming to increase conversations that lead to the
8 completion of advance health care planning documents, increase
9 awareness of the POLST program in the community, and support
10 statewide implementation of the POLST program, Health Care
11 Decisions Law (Chapter 658 of the Statutes of 1999), Terminal
12 Patients’ Right to Know Act (Chapter 683 of the Statutes if 2008),
13 and appropriate legislative changes; and
14 WHEREAS, The NHDD has designated April 16 as National
15 Healthcare Decisions Day, and hundreds of events will be taking
16 place all over the country to commemorate this day; and
17 WHEREAS, This observance offers a special and important
18 opportunity to encourage Californians to communicate their health
19 care preferences and execute advance health care planning
20 documents, and for seriously ill persons to learn about the POLST
21 program; now, therefore, be it
22 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate
23 of the State of California recognizes April 16, 2015, as Health
24 Care Decisions Day in California, urges all citizens to communicate
25 their health care preferences and execute advance health care
26 planning documents, and urges seriously ill persons to learn about
27 the POLST program; and be it further
28 *Resolved*, That the Senate of the State of California urges public
29 support for Health Care Decisions Day events planned in California
30 on April 16, 2015; and be it further
31 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
32 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.