

Introduced by Senators Jackson, Monning, and Wolk
(Coauthors: Senators Hertzberg and Leno)

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 *a*
8 health care agent or surrogate in order to make health care decisions
9 for him or her in the event of incapacity, by executing advance
10 health 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~~ *Physician* Orders
19 for 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

1 WHEREAS, The National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD)
2 initiative is a collaborative effort of national, state, and community
3 organizations created to inspire, educate, and empower the public
4 and providers about the importance of advance care planning; and

5 WHEREAS, The NHDD coalition has promoted National
6 Healthcare Decisions Day and is committed to ensuring that all
7 adults with decisionmaking capacity have the information and
8 opportunity to communicate and document their health care
9 decisions by aiming to increase conversations that lead to the
10 completion of advance health care planning documents, increase
11 awareness of the POLST program in the community, and support
12 statewide implementation of the POLST program, Health Care
13 Decisions Law (Chapter 658 of the Statutes of 1999), Terminal
14 Patients' Right to Know Act (Chapter 683 of the Statutes ~~if~~ of
15 2008), and appropriate legislative changes; and

16 WHEREAS, The NHDD *coalition* has designated April 16 as
17 National Healthcare Decisions Day, and hundreds of events will
18 be taking place all over the country to commemorate this day; and

19 WHEREAS, This observance offers a special and important
20 opportunity to encourage Californians to communicate their health
21 care preferences and execute advance health care planning
22 documents, and for seriously ill persons to learn about the POLST
23 program; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate
25 of the State of California recognizes April 16, 2015, as Health
26 Care Decisions Day in California, urges all citizens to communicate
27 their health care preferences and execute advance health care
28 planning documents, and urges seriously ill persons to learn about
29 the POLST program; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Senate of the State of California urges public
31 support for Health Care Decisions Day events planned in California
32 on April 16, 2015; and be it further

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

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