

Introduced by Senator Liu

June 29, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 77—Relative to Pain Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 77, as introduced, Liu. Pain Awareness Month and Women in Pain Awareness Day.

This measure would recognize the month of September 2015 as Pain Awareness Month and call upon all Californians to observe this month by participating in appropriate ceremonies and activities, and by learning how to improve the quality of life for people in California suffering from pain. The measure would also recognize September 11, 2015, as Women In Pain Awareness Day, to draw public attention to the 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 nearly 25 million
- 3 Americans suffer from 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, marginalized, and often not informed about the right
- 10 to effective pain assessment and management. Most people with
- 11 pain, including those at the end of life, get little or no relief; and

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

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

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

12 WHEREAS, Women report pain to health care providers more
13 frequently than men, but are more likely to have their pain reports
14 discounted as emotional or psychogenic and, therefore, not real;
15 and

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

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

26 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of
28 September 2015 as Pain Awareness Month, and calls upon all
29 Californians to observe the month by participating in appropriate
30 ceremonies and activities, and by learning how to improve the
31 quality of life for people in California suffering from pain; and be
32 it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes September 11, 2015,
34 as Women In Pain Awareness Day, to draw public attention to the
35 important need to raise awareness concerning the gender disparity
36 in pain assessment and treatment in the United States; and be it
37 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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