

Introduced by Senator Pan

March 7, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 117—Relative to palliative care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 117, as introduced, Pan. Palliative care.

This measure would encourage the State of California to study the status and importance of coordinated palliative care and to develop solutions, tools, and best practices for providing better patient-centered care and information to individuals with chronic diseases in California.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Palliative care means patient- and family-centered
2 medical care that optimizes quality of life by anticipating,
3 preventing, and treating suffering caused by serious illness; and

4 WHEREAS, Palliative care administered throughout the
5 continuum of illness involves addressing physical, emotional,
6 social, and spiritual needs that facilitate patient autonomy, access
7 to information, and choice; and

8 WHEREAS, Palliative care includes, but is not limited to,
9 discussions of the patient’s goals for treatment, treatment options
10 appropriate to the patient, including hospice care, and
11 comprehensive pain and symptom management; and

12 WHEREAS, All patients who are experiencing complex, chronic
13 health issues that affect their quality of life should be offered
14 palliative care as an option, as it is appropriate at any age and at
15 any stage, and can be provided along with curative treatment; and

16 WHEREAS, When palliative care programs are provided, a
17 larger percentage of hospice patients are identified earlier in their

1 eligibility window, which enables them to take advantage of these
2 valuable services for a longer period of time; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States healthcare system faces an
4 increased burden with spikes in the senior citizen population
5 coupled with increases in persons with complex chronic conditions
6 and more people gaining access to healthcare through insurance
7 coverage for the first time; and

8 WHEREAS, Recent studies indicate that by closely matching
9 treatment with a patient's goals and improving his or her quality
10 of life, palliative care can provide substantial cost reduction; and

11 WHEREAS, A population trained about the benefits of palliative
12 care boosts our medical and social care workforce; and

13 WHEREAS, The California Health and Human Services
14 Agency's Let's Get Healthy California Task Force identified
15 palliative care as one of its top priorities and indicators for all
16 Californians to enjoy optimal health in its 2012 report; and

17 WHEREAS, The formation of a state palliative care and quality
18 of life interdisciplinary advisory council and a palliative care
19 information and education program within the Department of
20 Public Health would maximize the effectiveness of palliative care
21 initiatives in the state by ensuring that comprehensive and accurate
22 information and education about palliative care is available to the
23 public, healthcare providers, and healthcare facilities; now,
24 therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
26 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages the state to
27 study the status and importance of coordinated palliative care as
28 a patient quality of life issue, as a way to improve the quality and
29 delivery of healthcare services, and as a way to more effectively
30 spend limited healthcare dollars; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages the state to develop
32 solutions, tools, and best practices for providing better
33 patient-centered care and information to individuals with chronic
34 diseases in California; and be it further

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