

Introduced by Senator Liu

June 15, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 154—Relative to pain awareness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 154, as introduced, Liu. Pain Awareness Month and Women in Pain Awareness Day.

This measure would recognize the month of September 2016 as Pain Awareness Month. The measure would also recognize September 23, 2016, as Women In Pain Awareness Day.

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 with 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 not informed about the right to
10 effective pain assessment and management, and most people with
11 pain, including those at the end of life, get little or no relief; and
12 WHEREAS, Women have a higher prevalence than men of
13 syndromes and diseases associated with chronic pain, such as
14 fibromyalgia, complex pain syndrome, and osteoarthritis, and
15 women respond differently to certain analgesics; and

1 WHEREAS, Women's pain reports are taken less seriously than
2 those of men, and women receive less aggressive treatment than
3 men for their pain; and

4 WHEREAS, Women have developed a number of coping
5 mechanisms to deal with pain, and this may contribute to a general
6 perception that they can endure more pain and that their pain does
7 not need to be taken as seriously; and

8 WHEREAS, Women more frequently report pain to a health
9 care provider, but are more likely to have their pain reports
10 discounted as emotional or psychogenic and, therefore, not real;
11 and

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

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

22 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
23 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes and
24 declares the month of September 2016 as Pain Awareness Month,
25 and calls upon all Californians to observe the month by
26 participating in appropriate ceremonies and activities, and by
27 learning how to improve the quality of life for people in California
28 suffering from pain; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes September 23, 2016,
30 as Women In Pain Awareness Day to draw public attention to the
31 important need to raise awareness concerning gender disparities
32 in pain assessment and treatment in the United States; and be it
33 further

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

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