

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 139

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 61

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 139—Relative to Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 26, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 139, Baca. Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) Syndrome Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim May 1998 as Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) Syndrome Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) Syndrome, a progressive multisymptom, multisystem, neuromuscular, neurovascular disorder, is a debilitating disease simultaneously involving nerves, muscles, blood vessels, skin, bones, and tissue; and

WHEREAS, It can develop after an injury, minor or major, and generally occurs in a limb; and

WHEREAS, RSD attacks the sympathetic nervous system, causing it to become confused, leading to a variety of symptoms, resulting in devastating consequences; and

WHEREAS, If left untreated, or mistreated, RSD begins to damage the surrounding tissues and can spread to other areas of the body and ultimately lead to total disability; and

WHEREAS, Early diagnosis is crucial. There is a short "window of time" during which RSD can possibly be helped, usually within the first three months after onset; and

WHEREAS, Correct aggressive treatment by qualified medical professionals can lead to a positive result; and

WHEREAS, As RSD progresses, treatment becomes increasingly difficult; and

WHEREAS, Although millions are affected with RSD, it is not well known by the public or some medical professionals and this lack of knowledge causes many patients to suffer needlessly for many years; and

WHEREAS, RSD knows no age limit and can strike young and old; and

WHEREAS, Other events that can cause RSD include infections, cuts, pricks of fingers or toes, soft tissue injuries, crush injuries, injury to any area rich in nerve endings, fractures, sprains, dislocations, broken bones, multiple trauma to a particular body part, some surgical procedures, invasive procedures, and repetitive motion disorders, such as that which causes Carpal Tunnel Syndrome; and



WHEREAS, Some signs and symptoms of RSD include severe burning pain in a localized region that is out of proportion to the severity of the injury, localized edema or swelling that may not always be apparent in the later stages, hyperesthesia, which is oversensitivity to touch and light pressure, vasospasm, which affects color and temperature of skin, muscle atrophy, constant burning pain, decreased range of motion, muscle spasms, stiffness, restricted mobility, and rapid hair and nail growth; and

WHEREAS, RSD sufferers may experience some or all of the signs and symptoms. The one common element is constant burning pain, the intensity of which can fluctuate; and

WHEREAS, Although RSD dates to before the Civil War, there is no known cure; and

WHEREAS, The medical professionals must find the cause before they can find the cure; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature does hereby proclaim May 1998 as Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) Syndrome Awareness Month.

