

## Senate Joint Resolution No. 21

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 136

Senate Joint Resolution No. 21—Relative to neurodevelopmental disorders.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 21, 1999.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 21, Burton. Neurodevelopmental disorders.

This measure would memorialize the President and the Congress of the United States to provide substantial additional funding to the National Institutes of Health to study neurodevelopmental disorders in order to advance research and best practices in the assessment, intervention, and prevention of those disorders.

WHEREAS, Neurodevelopmental disorders encompass a range of conditions affecting the brain, including, but not limited to, autism and related disorders, specific learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, mental retardation, and cerebral palsy; and

WHEREAS, Neurodevelopmental disorders are estimated to affect more than 20 percent of children and adults in California, and the vast majority of California school children who receive special education services; and

WHEREAS, The costs of neurodevelopmental disorders in California for medical care, special education, support services, and lost wages for these children and their families are significant and are estimated to exceed \$1 billion a year; and

WHEREAS, The causes of most neurodevelopmental disorders are unknown, which limits effective prevention; and

WHEREAS, Families, educators, and other professionals who treat individuals with these disorders in California have a tremendous need for information on research-based assessment, treatment, and support for individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders; and

WHEREAS, Specific learning disabilities and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are the most prevalent neurodevelopmental disorders affecting an estimated 10 to 15 percent of children and adults and, without effective assessment and intervention, carry greater risks for academic failure, illiteracy, unemployment, welfare, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, The number of clients with autism served by the developmental services system increased by 273 percent in the last 10 years and the number of students with autism served in schools throughout the United States increased by 179 percent in a five-year

period with no signs of leveling off and no explanation yet found for the dramatic increases; and

WHEREAS, Research and best practice regarding effective assessment and intervention services for individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders is informed by basic and applied research; and

WHEREAS, California's universities have the demonstrated capability to respond to the need for research on neurodevelopmental disorders to guide assessment, treatment, and support; and

WHEREAS, The University of California has multiple statewide centers engaged in research and treatment of neurologic disorders, including one center dedicated to linking basic biomedical research with clinical neurodevelopmental disorders and engaging cognitive neuroscience with educational assessments and interventions for these disorders; and

WHEREAS, The federal government provides the majority of funding for university-based research; and

WHEREAS, The federal National Institutes of Health (NIH), through its numerous institutes and centers, provides critical funding for research on neurodevelopmental disorders nationwide; and

WHEREAS, For the 1999 fiscal year, the Congress provided the NIH with an increase of nearly 15 percent over the appropriation for the 1998 fiscal year to build on recent medical advances to treat illness and disability, thereby providing an additional \$1.9 billion for NIH programs including research grant awards; and

WHEREAS, Neurobiology, which builds on new understanding of brain biology resulting from new methods to study the nervous system, has been identified as one of NIH's areas of research emphasis; and

WHEREAS, The President proposes a \$320 million increase and Congress proposes a \$600 million increase to the NIH in the 2000 fiscal year, which would provide 2-percent and 4-percent increases, respectively, above the 1999 fiscal year NIH budget to continue biomedical research, including research on brain disorders and disease prevention; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to provide substantial additional funding to the National Institutes of Health to study the neurobiology of autism and related disorders, specific learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and other neurodevelopmental disorders, so that California and other states can advance research and best practices regarding assessment, intervention, and prevention of these disorders; and be it further



*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, to the Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the United States Secretary of Education.

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