

**Introduced by Senator Escutia**

March 16, 2000

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 72—Relative to arthritis.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 72, as introduced, Escutia. National Arthritis Awareness Day.

This measure would declare that the Legislature understands the extent of, and sympathizes with, the severity of the impact of arthritis on California, and would recognize that Thursday, May 18, 2000, is National Arthritis Awareness Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Arthritis refers to more than 100 different
- 2 diseases that affect areas in or around joints; and
- 3 WHEREAS, The disease also can affect other parts of
- 4 the body; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Arthritis causes pain, loss of movement,
- 6 and sometimes swelling; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Arthritis limits everyday activities such as
- 8 walking, dressing, and bathing for more than seven
- 9 million Americans; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Arthritis is one of the most prevalent of
- 11 chronic health problems and the nation's leading cause of
- 12 disability among Americans over 15 years of age; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Arthritis is also the leading cause of worker
- 14 disability; and



1 WHEREAS, Arthritis affects people in all age groups,  
2 including as many as 285,000 children; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the National Health  
4 Interview Survey, an estimated 43 million Americans  
5 have arthritis; in 1990, it was reported that four million  
6 Californians suffered from arthritis; and by 2020, the  
7 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 7.4  
8 million Californians will struggle with the disability; and

9 WHEREAS, Arthritis prevalence increases rapidly  
10 after age 45, and in most individuals is chronic, lasting for  
11 life; and

12 WHEREAS, As the leading edge of the baby boom  
13 generation enters the prime years for arthritis, a quantum  
14 leap in the number of persons suffering from arthritis will  
15 take place and the impact on individuals and the nation's  
16 health will grow dramatically; and

17 WHEREAS, Arthritis costs the United States economy  
18 an estimated \$65 billion annually, an estimated 2.5  
19 percent of gross national product; and

20 WHEREAS, An average of eight physician visits per  
21 person are made annually for arthritis, double the  
22 average of physician visits per person for all other causes;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Arthritis accounts for 427 million days of  
25 restricted activity, 156 million days in bed, and 45 million  
26 days lost from work; now, therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the*  
28 *Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the  
29 State of California understands the extent of, and  
30 sympathizes with, the severity of the impact of arthritis  
31 on California; and, be it further

32 *Resolved,* That the Legislature recognizes that  
33 Thursday, May 18, 2000, is National Arthritis Awareness  
34 Day and appreciates the efforts of the California Arthritis  
35 Council to seek access to care for all Californians.

