

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 7, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 75

Introduced by Assembly Members V. Manuel Perez and Ammiano
(Principal coauthor: Senator Padilla)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Arambula, Block, Caballero,
Conway, Coto, De La Torre, and Swanson)

May 19, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 75—Relative to promotores and community health workers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 75, as amended, V. Manuel Perez. Promotores and community health workers.

This measure would recognize the pioneering work of promotores and community health workers in delivering vital and cost-effective health care services in communities throughout California and declare October 2009 as California Promotores Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The delivery of health care is often constrained by
- 2 issues of access and outreach to individuals and their families; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Barriers to accessing quality health care and mental
- 4 health care services include financial barriers, being uninsured or
- 5 underinsured, geography or residing in medically underserved
- 6 communities, fragmentation of health care services, poor outreach
- 7 and education to vulnerable communities, language barriers, and
- 8 a lack of diversity and cultural competency in the health care
- 9 workforce; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the California Health Care
2 Foundation's 2008 publication titled "Snapshot: California's
3 Uninsured," approximately 6,600,000 Californians are uninsured.
4 Low-income families earning less than \$25,000 per year, younger
5 people under 34 years of age, and people of color are most likely
6 to be uninsured; and

7 WHEREAS, For hundreds of years, promotores and community
8 health workers have been fighting the effects of catastrophic
9 epidemics, inequalities, and injustices; and

10 WHEREAS, Promotores, also known as community health
11 workers, peer leaders, or health advocates, serve as cultural brokers
12 who provide a unique understanding of the cultures they serve.
13 They serve as a bridge between the community and the public
14 health care delivery system and provide education and prevention
15 information and resources in a manner that is culturally and
16 linguistically appropriate to the community's individuals and
17 families. As the authentic voice of their community, promotores
18 also connect governments and policymakers to people living within
19 that community; and

20 WHEREAS, Promotores are volunteer, stipend, paid, and
21 independent contractors who may be associated with city and
22 county health and human services and mental health agencies,
23 nonprofit community-based organizations, health clinics, hospitals,
24 and community centers. By training and integrating active
25 community members to promote health and wellness, promotores
26 have demonstrated a significant level of cost-effectiveness in
27 delivering health care education and services, particularly in
28 maternal and child health and chronic diseases, including, but not
29 limited to, asthma, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and
30 HIV/AIDS; and

31 WHEREAS, According to the federal Centers for Disease
32 Control and Prevention, integrating promotores and community
33 health workers into health programs has been associated with
34 improvements in access to health care, prenatal care, pregnancy
35 and birth outcomes, client health status, health- and
36 screening-related behaviors, and reduced health care costs; and

37 WHEREAS, Recently, in the present time of mounting
38 economic, political, and social challenges, promotores, both paid
39 and volunteer, provide aid and support to those most in need at
40 clinics, churches, workplaces, schools, parks, hospitals, farm fields,

1 and mostly at home in the neighborhoods where they live and raise
2 their own families; and

3 WHEREAS, In California, Vision y Compromiso has brought
4 together thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations
5 united as one voice behind a vision of a dignified and healthy life
6 for all, Hacia Una Vida Digna y Sana, and while growing in
7 leadership and experience, and despite their heartfelt service and
8 documented successes, promotores and community health workers
9 receive little recognition for their work and often face serious
10 challenges accessing educational and employment training
11 opportunities; now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
13 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
14 formally endorses the pioneering work of promotores and duly
15 recognizes the leadership provided by Vision y Compromiso, for
16 fostering this initiative to build greater community leadership and
17 capacity; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Legislature also duly recognizes the
19 leadership provided by regional coordinators, staff, board members,
20 and advisors of organizations, for their dedication to and
21 collaboration with promotores and community health workers
22 across California; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Legislature supports the continuing effort
24 by promotores to increase their presence and support for the
25 well-being of California communities; and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Legislature ~~considers~~ encourages policies
27 and programs that will enhance the status of promotores in the
28 delivery of health care, encourage health delivery systems to
29 integrate promotores where appropriate, and provide incentives
30 and funding for staff, where appropriate, to encourage their
31 program development and integration, given the changing
32 demographics and health care needs of California in the 21st
33 century; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares October 2009 as
35 California Promotores Month in order to raise awareness of the
36 important contributions of promotores and community health
37 workers; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.