

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 27, 2009

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~~ Swanson, Adams, Anderson, Bass, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Blumenfeld, Brownley, Buchanan, Charles Calderon, Carter, Chesbro, Cook, Davis, De Leon, DeVore, Duvall, Emmerson, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Fuller, Furutani, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gilmore, Hagman, Hall, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jones, Krekorian, Lieu, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Monning, Nava, Nestande, Niello, Nielsen, John A. Perez, Portantino, Ruskin, Salas, Silva, Skinner, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, Tran, Villines, and Yamada)

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

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

16 WHEREAS, For hundreds of years, promotores and community
17 health workers have been fighting the effects of catastrophic
18 epidemics, inequalities, and injustices; and

19 WHEREAS, Promotores, also known as community health
20 workers, peer leaders, or health advocates, serve as cultural brokers
21 who provide a unique understanding of the cultures they serve.
22 They serve as a bridge between the community and the public
23 health care delivery system and provide education and prevention
24 information and resources in a manner that is culturally and
25 linguistically appropriate to the community's individuals and
26 families. As the authentic voice of their community, promotores
27 also connect governments and policymakers to people living within
28 that community; and

29 WHEREAS, Promotores are volunteer, stipend, paid, and
30 independent contractors who may be associated with city and
31 county health and human services and mental health agencies,
32 nonprofit community-based organizations, health clinics, hospitals,
33 and community centers. By training and integrating active
34 community members to promote health and wellness, promotores
35 have demonstrated a significant level of cost-effectiveness in
36 delivering health care education and services, particularly in
37 maternal and child health and chronic diseases, including, but not

1 limited to, asthma, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and
2 HIV/AIDS; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the federal Centers for Disease
4 Control and Prevention, integrating promotores and community
5 health workers into health programs has been associated with
6 improvements in access to health care, prenatal care, pregnancy
7 and birth outcomes, client health status, health- and
8 screening-related behaviors, and reduced health care costs; and

9 WHEREAS, Recently, in the present time of mounting
10 economic, political, and social challenges, promotores, both paid
11 and volunteer, provide aid and support to those most in need at
12 clinics, churches, workplaces, schools, parks, hospitals, farm fields,
13 and mostly at home in the neighborhoods where they live and raise
14 their own families; and

15 WHEREAS, In California, Vision y Compromiso has brought
16 together thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations
17 united as one voice behind a vision of a dignified and healthy life
18 for all, Hacia Una Vida Digna y Sana, and while growing in
19 leadership and experience, and despite their heartfelt service and
20 documented successes, promotores and community health workers
21 receive little recognition for their work and often face serious
22 challenges accessing educational and employment training
23 opportunities; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
26 formally endorses the pioneering work of promotores and duly
27 recognizes the leadership provided by Vision y Compromiso, for
28 fostering this initiative to build greater community leadership and
29 capacity; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Legislature also duly recognizes the
31 leadership provided by regional coordinators, staff, board members,
32 and advisors of organizations, for their dedication to and
33 collaboration with promotores and community health workers
34 across California; and be it further

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

38 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages policies and programs
39 that will enhance the status of promotores in the delivery of health
40 care, encourage health delivery systems to integrate promotores

- 1 where appropriate, and provide incentives and funding for staff,
2 where appropriate, to encourage their program development and
3 integration, given the changing demographics and health care needs
4 of California in the 21st century; and be it further
5 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares October 2009 as
6 California Promotores Month in order to raise awareness of the
7 important contributions of promotores and community health
8 workers; and be it further
9 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
10 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.