

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 39

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28—Relative to senior volunteers.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 29, 2009.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 28, Correa. Senior Volunteer Month.

This measure would declare May 2009 to be “Senior Volunteer Month” to honor the contributions of California’s senior volunteers.

WHEREAS, Each May, Americans observe Older Americans Month and celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of older Americans; and

WHEREAS, Many local governments have proclaimed May to be Older Americans Month; and

WHEREAS, Senior volunteers serve congregate and home-delivered meals, engage in assisted senior activities, work for the prevention of elder abuse, and provide health care counseling, legal assistance, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, Volunteer work is performed for Alzheimer’s patients, grandchildren, community organizations, schools, churches, hospitals, and many other nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, A national survey in 1999 showed senior citizens’ volunteer work hours totaled approximately 5.5 billion hours a year at an estimated value of \$71.2 billion. Forty-five percent of seniors reported volunteering in neighborhoods, 54 percent of senior volunteers were either full- or part-time employed, and 45 percent of retired seniors volunteered four or more hours weekly. Eighty-one percent of those over 75 years of age volunteer when asked; and

WHEREAS, Many local governments, nonprofit organizations, and senior centers recognize senior volunteers once a year by providing honorary certificates; and

WHEREAS, Many senior volunteers are in better health and live longer due to advancements in medical science; and

WHEREAS, A major motivator for senior volunteers is their desire to give back to society financially or socially; and

WHEREAS, The 2005 White House Conference on Aging resolved to “develop a national strategy for promoting new and meaningful volunteer activities and civic engagements for current and future seniors” because volunteerism is very important to the fabric of American society; and

WHEREAS, The 2005 White House Conference on Aging resolved to “reauthorize the National And Community Service Act to expand opportunities for volunteer and civic engagement activities” because

volunteerism greatly assists many nonprofit organizations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature declares May 2009 to be “Senior Volunteer Month” to honor the contributions of California’s senior volunteers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.