
**Introduced by Senator Alquist
(Principal coauthor: Senator Strickland)**

April 20, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 36—Relative to adolescent health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 36, as introduced, Alquist. Adolescent health.

This measure would recognize and commend the number and scope of existing “well adolescent” programs and initiatives that the State Department of Public Health, the State Department of Education, and the State Department of Health Care Services are charged with administering. This measure would also encourage all Californians to recognize and support the focus of the departments on improving California adolescent health through education and outreach efforts to prevent chronic diseases, promote improved treatment of chronic diseases, and ensure updated immunizations against preventable diseases.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, During the transition from childhood to adulthood,
- 2 adolescents establish unhealthy patterns of behavior and make
- 3 poor lifestyle choices that affect both their current and future health.
- 4 For example, 80 percent of adolescents who are obese will remain
- 5 obese as adults; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Adolescence is a critical time to develop positive
- 7 habits and skills that can lead to healthy lifestyles and behaviors
- 8 over the adolescent’s lifetime. The Institute of Medicine and the
- 9 National Research Council conducted a study that found that one
- 10 important factor in designing an adolescent health service is the

1 focus on prevention of disease. One of the study’s findings
2 concluded that “[p]revention, early intervention and timely
3 treatment improve health status for adolescents, prepare them for
4 healthy adulthood, and decrease the incidence of many chronic
5 diseases in adulthood”; and

6 WHEREAS, Many adolescents may not have access to primary
7 health care and the National Association of County and City Health
8 Officials (NACCHO) encourages the adolescent health care
9 platform to occur in multiple settings, including both traditional
10 and nontraditional settings, such as schools; and

11 WHEREAS, Adolescents and young adults are adversely
12 affected by serious health and safety issues, such as motor vehicle
13 crashes, violence, and substance abuse. They also struggle to adopt
14 behaviors that could decrease their risk of developing chronic
15 diseases in adulthood, behaviors such as eating nutritiously,
16 engaging in physical activity, and choosing not to use tobacco.
17 Environmental factors, such as family, peer group, school, and
18 community characteristics, also contribute to the challenges that
19 adolescents face. In the past few years, immunizations have been
20 licensed to provide protection for adolescents against infections
21 and diseases, such as meningitis, tetanus-diphtheria-acellular
22 pertussis, influenza, and cervical cancer; and

23 WHEREAS, The Advisory Committee on Immunization
24 Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP),
25 the American Academy of Family Practitioners (AAFP), and the
26 American Medical Association (AMA) recommend a routine health
27 care visit for adolescents who are 11 to 12 years of age to receive
28 recommended immunizations and other evidence-based preventive
29 health care services; and

30 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and
31 Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration
32 (HRSA) has developed, in conjunction with AAP, the Bright
33 Futures Initiative, which provides a set of guidelines, that include,
34 but are not limited to, recommendations on immunizations and
35 routine health screenings for adolescents; and

36 WHEREAS, NACCHO supports the development of an
37 adolescent health care platform that would address unmet
38 prevention needs among adolescents, including, but not limited
39 to, health care screenings and testing, age appropriate

1 immunizations, injury prevention, obesity prevention, and mental
2 health screenings; and

3 WHEREAS, ACIP recommends the use of FDA-approved
4 vaccines for tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis, meningitis,
5 influenza, and cervical cancer in adolescents; and

6 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
7 (CDC) has launched a national campaign to raise awareness about
8 adolescent health and immunizations; and

9 WHEREAS, The CDC's National Immunization Survey (NIS)
10 found that immunization coverage levels among adolescents, in
11 2006, did not meet the Healthy People 2010 objective of 90 percent
12 coverage for adolescents who are 13 to 15 years of age for any of
13 the vaccines measured; and

14 WHEREAS, The Society for Adolescent Medicine has found
15 that adolescent well visits are one of the best tools for preventive
16 care to ensure continued health from childhood to adulthood.
17 Children and adolescents who regularly visit a primary care
18 physician are less likely to have emergency room visits and
19 preventable hospitalizations; and

20 WHEREAS, Because adolescents remain under the guardianship
21 of their parents, parental awareness of the need for an adolescent
22 well visit plays an enormous role in the incidence of adolescent
23 well visits; and

24 WHEREAS, Adolescent health and wellness education and
25 health condition prevention programs generate an extraordinary
26 return on investment when compared to the cost of treating
27 debilitating episodic disease outbreaks and potential lifetime
28 chronic diseases that may affect an adolescent in his or her adult
29 years; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
31 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes and commends
32 the number and scope of existing "well adolescent" programs and
33 initiatives that the State Department of Public Health, the State
34 Department of Education, and the State Department of Health Care
35 Services are charged with administering; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Legislature hereby encourages all
37 Californians to recognize and support the focus of the State
38 Department of Public Health, the State Department of Education,
39 and the State Department of Health Care Services on improving
40 California adolescent health through their education and outreach

1 efforts to prevent chronic diseases, promote improved treatment
2 of chronic diseases, and ensure updated immunizations against
3 preventable diseases; and be it further

4 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
5 this resolution to the State Department of Public Health, the State
6 Department of Education, and the State Department of Health Care
7 Services, and to the author for appropriate distribution.