

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 20, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 17, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 91

Introduced by Senator Steinberg

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Ammiano, Anderson, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Block, Blumenfield, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Charles Calderon, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Davis, De Leon, DeVore, Emmerson, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Fuller, Furutani, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gilmore, Hagman, Hall, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Lieu, Logue, Ma, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Nestande, Niello, Nielsen, V. Manuel Perez, Portantino, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, Tran, and Yamada)

March 22, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 91—Relative to Autism Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 91, as amended, Steinberg. Autism Awareness Month.

This measure would designate April 2010 as Autism Awareness Month, would affirm the Legislature's commitment to the important issues related to autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), would emphasize that each and every individual with an ASD is a valued and important member of our society, would recognize and commend the parents and relatives of individuals with ASDs for their sacrifice and dedication in providing for the special needs of individuals with ASDs, would recognize and commend the work of all nonprofit organizations that

are contributing to the well-being of individuals with autism and their families, and would stress the need to identify children with ASDs and to begin early intervention services immediately after a child has been diagnosed with an ASD.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Autism is a complex, neurobiological disorder that
2 typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime. Autism is part of a
3 group of disorders known as autism spectrum disorders (ASDs);
4 and

5 WHEREAS, ASDs are neurodevelopmental disorders of
6 unknown etiology that may cause significant impairments in
7 language, communications, and social interactions, abnormalities
8 in behaviors, and other physical manifestations; and

9 WHEREAS, ASDs are abnormalities of brain development and
10 function that are typically diagnosed during the first three years
11 of life, are four times more likely to occur in males than females,
12 and impact all segments of California's population regardless of
13 race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or other factors; and

14 WHEREAS, ASDs now impact one out of every 100 children
15 in the United States and are the fastest growing serious
16 developmental disabilities, making these disorders more common
17 than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and acquired immunodeficiency
18 syndrome (AIDS) combined; and

19 WHEREAS, Most school districts in California have seen a
20 doubling of students with ASDs in the past five years. The number
21 of Californians with ASDs who are served by the State Department
22 of Developmental Services now exceeds 40,000, which is a number
23 that has more than tripled since 1998 and has increased more than
24 12 times from what it was in 1987; and

25 WHEREAS, Many Californians are not adequately informed
26 about ASDs and the value and importance of early identification,
27 assessment, and treatment of these disorders; and

28 WHEREAS, Parents and family members have made invaluable
29 contributions through their commitment, care, and advocacy to
30 important advances in research, education, and treatment for
31 individuals with ASDs; and

32 WHEREAS, California has been the established leader in
33 providing services and supports for the early identification,
34 assessment, intervention, education, and treatment of individuals

1 with ASDs that began with the passage of landmark state legislation
2 such as the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Service Act of
3 1969 and Assembly Bill 3854 (Chapter 1527 of the Statutes of
4 1974), relating to autism and public education; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2005, Senator Perata authored Senate Concurrent
6 Resolution 51 (Resolution Chapter 124 of the Statutes of 2005)
7 that established, with bipartisan backing, the Legislative Blue
8 Ribbon Commission on Autism; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2007, the Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission
10 on Autism submitted its report, “An Opportunity to Achieve Real
11 Change for Californians with Autism Spectrum Disorders,” which
12 provided specific findings and recommendations

13 ; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2008, Senator Steinberg authored Senate
15 Concurrent Resolution 97 (Resolution Chapter 62 of the Statutes
16 of 2008) that proclaimed April 2008 as Autism Awareness Month,
17 and acknowledged the contributions made in the area of early
18 autism and ASD intervention treatment; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2009, Senator Price, who at the time was a
20 member of the Assembly, authored Assembly Concurrent
21 Resolution 53 (Resolution Chapter 30 of the Statutes of 2009) that
22 proclaimed April 2009 as Autism Awareness Month and noted the
23 important sacrifices and dedication that parents and relatives of
24 individuals with ASDs contribute in providing for the special needs
25 of individuals with ASDs; and

26 WHEREAS, In 2009, the Senate Committee on Rules, pursuant
27 to Senate Rule 12.5, established a subcommittee of the General
28 Research Committee known as the Senate Select Committee on
29 Autism and Related Disorders

30 ; and

31 WHEREAS, The Senate Select Committee on Autism and
32 Related Disorders has appointed regional autism taskforces that
33 are comprised of consumers and their family members, advocates,
34 providers, researchers, and other experts in the area of ASDs, and
35 other stakeholders, to provide assistance to, and to support the
36 work of, the select committee. Senator Steinberg, as Chair of the
37 Senate Select Committee on Autism and Related Disorders, has
38 established the Statewide Coordinating Council of Autism
39 Taskforces that will consist of the chairs and cochairs of the
40 regional autism taskforces and will meet periodically to review

1 the input from all of the regional autism taskforces and develop
2 integrated recommendations for consideration by the Senate Select
3 Committee on Autism and Related Disorders; and

4 WHEREAS, Current scientific research demonstrates that early
5 identification of and intervention for children with ASDs can result
6 in significant positive outcomes in many children with ASDs; and

7 WHEREAS, Public information and awareness efforts are of
8 paramount importance in accelerating early identification efforts
9 and the proliferation of early intervention programs and services;
10 now, therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
12 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates April 2010 as
13 Autism Awareness Month, affirms its commitment to the important
14 issues related to ASDs, and emphasizes that each and every
15 individual with an ASD is a valued and important member of our
16 society; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and commends the
18 parents and relatives of individuals with ASDs for their sacrifice
19 and dedication in providing for the special needs of individuals
20 with ASDs; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and commends the
22 work of all of the nonprofit organizations that are contributing to
23 the well-being of individuals with autism and their families; and
24 be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Legislature stresses the need to identify
26 children with ASDs and to begin early intervention services
27 immediately after a child has been diagnosed with autism, and that
28 those services, interventions, and supports for individuals with
29 ASDs and their families must be provided in an integrated,
30 seamless, comprehensive, and competent manner; and be it further

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