

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 97**

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**Introduced by Senator Yee**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Ammiano, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Blakeslee, Block, Blumenfield, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Charles Calderon, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Coto, Davis, De Leon, DeVore, Emmerson, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Gaines, Galgiani, Gilmore, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Monning, Nava, Nestande, Nielsen, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Portantino, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, Tran, Villines, and Yamada)*

April 7, 2010

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 97—Relative to Asian Pacific American Mental Health Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 97, as amended, Yee. Asian Pacific American Mental Health Day.

This measure would recognize May 10, 2010, and each May 10 thereafter, as Asian Pacific American Mental Health Day, and acknowledge the importance of raising awareness about mental health in the Asian Pacific American community.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Asian Pacific American community is among
- 2 the fastest growing and most diverse racial groups in the United
- 3 States. Asian Pacific Americans have made remarkable economic,

1 political, and social contributions, and are the majority in eight  
2 California cities and the second largest group in four California  
3 counties; and

4 WHEREAS, Approximately 25 percent of Americans experience  
5 and are diagnosed with a mental health condition in a given year,  
6 impacting all communities regardless of race, ethnicity, age,  
7 socioeconomic status, and gender; and

8 WHEREAS, There is a critical need to raise awareness about  
9 and advocate for health care policies that increase the accessibility  
10 of mental health care services; and

11 WHEREAS, In this country there is a critical need to raise  
12 awareness about mental health, particularly within the Asian Pacific  
13 American community, to destigmatize seeking help, and to gain  
14 access to culturally competent community services; and

15 WHEREAS, Asian Pacific Americans use mental health services  
16 at the lowest rates among ethnic populations. This may be due to  
17 the substantial stigma that exists among Asian Pacific Americans,  
18 as well as cultural and linguistic isolation of the community, family,  
19 and individual; and

20 WHEREAS, There is an extreme lack of research regarding  
21 Asian Pacific Americans and mental health issues. A combination  
22 of psychosocial and pharmacological treatments and supports prove  
23 to be highly effective with 70 percent to 90 percent, inclusive, of  
24 individuals with mental health issues having significant reduction  
25 of symptoms and improved quality of life; and

26 WHEREAS, Raising awareness about mental health in the Asian  
27 Pacific American community encourages professional interest in  
28 health and human services careers, fostering a diversified workforce  
29 that reflects the community; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
31 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes May 10, 2010,  
32 and each May 10 thereafter, as Asian Pacific American Mental  
33 Health Day, and acknowledges the importance of raising awareness  
34 about mental health in the Asian Pacific American community;  
35 and be it further

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

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