

Introduced by Senator Alquist
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Logue)

August 9, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 121—Relative to Alzheimer’s disease.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 121, as introduced, Alquist. Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month and National Memory Screening Day

This measure would designate November 2010 as Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month and Tuesday, November 16, 2010, as National Memory Screening Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Alzheimer’s disease is a slow, progressive disorder
2 of the brain that results in loss of memory and other cognitive
3 function and, eventually, death; and
4 WHEREAS, Alzheimer’s disease is the seventh leading cause
5 of death in the United States and currently affects an estimated 5.1
6 million Americans; and
7 WHEREAS, In California alone it is estimated that more than
8 588,000 people have Alzheimer’s disease. That number is expected
9 to double by the year 2030; and
10 WHEREAS, The stigma associated with Alzheimer’s disease
11 results in a delay of diagnosis, in some cases up to six years; and
12 WHEREAS, Alzheimer’s disease takes an enormous toll on
13 family members, with an estimated one in four acting as caregiver
14 for individuals with the disease; and

1 WHEREAS, Caregivers for individuals with Alzheimer's disease
2 suffer from increased levels of stress and depression that differ
3 from those of caregivers who deal with other illnesses, that can
4 create health problems unique to those caregivers; and

5 WHEREAS, Recent advancements in scientific research have
6 demonstrated the benefits of early medical treatment for individuals
7 with Alzheimer's disease, as well as the benefits of early access
8 to counseling and other support services for their caregivers; and

9 WHEREAS, With early diagnosis, individuals can avoid or
10 correct contributing medical problems, commence available
11 therapy, organize current and future care, and enhance
12 self-determination. Caregivers can identify and embrace available
13 community support services; and

14 WHEREAS, In direct response to research breakthroughs,
15 National Memory Screening Day was established by the
16 Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) as a collaborative
17 effort with local organizations and health care professionals across
18 the country to promote awareness, early detection, and early
19 diagnosis of memory impairment so that individuals can obtain
20 proper medical treatment, social services, and other resources
21 related to their condition; and

22 WHEREAS, National Memory Screening Day is held by the
23 AFA each November in recognition of National Alzheimer's
24 Disease Awareness Month, and on this day health care
25 professionals administer free, confidential, face-to-face memory
26 screenings at hundreds of sites throughout the United States; and

27 WHEREAS, Memory screening is not used to diagnose any
28 illness, but is used as an indicator to determine whether a person
29 might benefit from further examination by a qualified health care
30 provider; and

31 WHEREAS, Memory screenings are a safe and cost-effective
32 intervention to direct at-risk individuals to appropriate clinical
33 resources, thus reducing the costs of long-term care or
34 hospitalization resulting from undiagnosed complications; and

35 WHEREAS, Screenings also greatly benefit those with normal
36 scores by checking their memory, allaying fears, and promoting
37 chronic disease prevention and successful aging; now, therefore,
38 be it

39 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
40 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the seriousness

1 of Alzheimer's disease and the toll it takes on individuals with the
2 disease and their caregivers; and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature acknowledges that more outreach
4 and education is needed to eliminate the stigma associated with
5 the disease and assist individuals and their caregivers in identifying
6 available screenings, treatments, and support; and be it further

7 *Resolved*, That the Legislature designates November 2010 as
8 Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month in the State of California
9 to raise awareness about the importance of early diagnosis and
10 treatment of Alzheimer's disease; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Legislature designates Tuesday, November
12 16, 2010, as National Memory Screening Day and urges the citizens
13 of California to participate in a free and confidential memory
14 screening program at National Memory Screening Day sites or by
15 other qualified professionals; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Legislature congratulates state and local
17 organizations representing individuals with memory problems,
18 caregivers, and health care professionals for their commitment to
19 improving the quality of life of individuals confronting dementia
20 and their families by providing optimal care and services; and be
21 it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Legislature supports the goals and ideals of
23 National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and National
24 Memory Screening Day, including the development of a state
25 health policy on dementia screening and care; and be it further

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