

House Resolution

No. 25

Introduced by Assembly Member Buchanan

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Butler, Campos, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Davis, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Furutani, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Gatto, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Hall, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Lara, Logue, Ma, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

March 8, 2012

House Resolution No. 25—Relative to Prescription Drug Awareness Month.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 2008, drug overdoses in the United States caused
- 2 36,450 deaths and 20,044 of these were from prescription drug
- 3 overdoses; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers
- 5 have increased and now exceed deaths involving heroin and cocaine
- 6 combined; and
- 7 WHEREAS, In 2009, 1.2 million emergency department visits
- 8 were related to misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals (an increase
- 9 of 98.4 percent since 2004); and

1 WHEREAS, Nonmedical use of opioid pain relievers costs
2 insurance companies up to \$72.5 billion annually in health care
3 costs; and

4 WHEREAS, By 2010, enough prescription painkillers were sold
5 to medicate every American adult with a typical dose of five mg
6 of hydrocodone every four hours for one month; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2010, 2 million people reported using
8 prescription painkillers nonmedically for the first time within the
9 last year—nearly 5,500 a day; and

10 WHEREAS, As many as 70 percent of people who abuse
11 prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a
12 doctor; and

13 WHEREAS, The National Coalition Against Prescription Drug
14 Abuse, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies,
15 community-based organizations, alcohol and other drugs service
16 providers, and civic and business leaders, coordinates Prescription
17 Drug Abuse Awareness Month activities to offer our citizens the
18 opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to campaigns and
19 education aimed at raising awareness about the abuse or misuse
20 of prescription drugs, promoting prescription drug safe storage
21 and disposal, and using medications only as prescribed; and

22 WHEREAS, Families, schools, businesses, faith-based
23 communities, law enforcement agencies, medical professionals,
24 county and local governments, health care practitioners,
25 pharmacists, and the general public throughout the state will
26 demonstrate their commitment to the prevention of prescription
27 medication abuse by participating in activities intended to highlight
28 local efforts during the month of March; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
30 Assembly does hereby declare March 2012 as Prescription Drug
31 Abuse Awareness Month, and encourages all citizens to participate
32 in prevention programs and activities; and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Assembly encourages all community
34 members to “Spread the Word ... One Pill Can Kill”; and be it
35 further

36 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
37 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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