

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 105

Introduced by Assembly Member Hayashi

February 9, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 105—Relative to Children’s Dental Health Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 105, as introduced, Hayashi. Children’s Dental Health Month. This measure would declare the month of February 2012 as Children’s Dental Health Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 2007, Americans made approximately 500
2 million dental visits and spent an estimated \$98.6 billion on dental
3 services; and
4 WHEREAS, Approximately 78 percent of Americans have at
5 least one cavity by the age of 17 and for the first time in 40 years,
6 tooth decay in young children is on the rise. Of the 4 million
7 children born each year, one-quarter will have at least one cavity
8 by the time they reach kindergarten and one-half by 2nd grade;
9 and
10 WHEREAS, The oral health of children is important because
11 untreated tooth decay is progressive and causes pain and infections
12 that may lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing, and
13 learning, and can be devastating to children’s long-term health,
14 educational achievements, self-image, and overall success; and
15 WHEREAS, Tooth decay (dental caries) affects children in the
16 United States more than any other chronic infectious disease, and

1 80 percent of Americans have some form of periodontal gum
2 disease; and

3 WHEREAS, Without immediate action, the impact of tooth
4 decay among today's young children will be felt for years to come.
5 Oral health care has a significant and lasting impact on the
6 productivity of our existing and future employees and leaders; and

7 WHEREAS, Developing good habits at an early age and
8 scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on
9 a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums, and the American Dental
10 Association's messages and materials have reached millions of
11 people in communities across the country; now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
13 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
14 month of February 2012 as Children's Dental Health Month; and
15 be it further

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