

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 131

Introduced by Assembly Member Galgiani

March 19, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 131—Relative to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease awareness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 131, as introduced, Galgiani. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease awareness.

This measure would encourage the State Department of Health Care Services, the State Department of Public Health, and other state entities to partner with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) stakeholders to improve education regarding COPD in the course of implementing the statewide strategic plan.

This measure would also designate November 2012 as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month in California and encourage public officials and the citizens of California to increase awareness of the symptoms of, and the methods of preventing, COPD.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD),
- 2 also known as chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is the third
- 3 leading cause of death in the United States; and
- 4 WHEREAS, COPD is a chronic and progressive disease that
- 5 impacts an estimated 24 million Americans each year,
- 6 approximately five million of whom are residents of California,
- 7 and an estimated 1.6 million of whom suffer directly from the
- 8 disease; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2007, the national annual cost for COPD was
2 estimated to be \$42.6 billion and, in that same year, COPD caused
3 approximately 121,000 deaths nationwide; and

4 WHEREAS, The Office of Statewide Health Planning and
5 Development reported that hospitalizations associated with COPD
6 alone amounted to an estimated \$1.34 billion in medical costs
7 within the state; and

8 WHEREAS, Many patients suffering with COPD are not
9 diagnosed until they have reached an advanced stage of COPD,
10 which often includes a disabling degree of lung dysfunction; and

11 WHEREAS, A diagnostic test for COPD, known as spirometry,
12 is available for office use, allowing early diagnosis of COPD; and

13 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and management of COPD can
14 effectively reduce the overall financial burden of this illness on
15 publicly funded health care programs, including Medi-Cal; and

16 WHEREAS, Achieving early diagnosis and proper management
17 of COPD among California's diverse populations, within the
18 Medi-Cal program as well as other publicly funded health care
19 programs, requires overcoming cultural, language, and literacy
20 challenges; and

21 WHEREAS, Proper management of COPD can lead to an
22 improved quality of life and self-sufficiency for patients who
23 receive publicly funded benefits; and

24 WHEREAS, The "Healthy People 2020" project of the Centers
25 for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of
26 Health concludes that, while primary care physicians are in a key
27 position to provide optimal care to patients with COPD and to
28 provide counseling during clinical or health center visits, primary
29 care physicians need to be trained in the latest methods for
30 diagnosing and treating the disease; and

31 WHEREAS, The California COPD Coalition has developed a
32 comprehensive plan to address COPD in the state, entitled the
33 "Strategic Plan to Address COPD in California," which outlines
34 six goal areas, including all of the following: prevention, quality
35 of care, public health infrastructure and advocacy, surveillance,
36 research, and public education awareness; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
38 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages the State
39 Department of Health Care Services, the State Department of
40 Public Health, and other state entities to, whenever possible, partner

1 with COPD stakeholders to improve education in California
2 regarding COPD in the course of implementing the statewide
3 strategic plan; and be it further

4 *Resolved*, That the Legislature designates November 2012 as
5 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month in
6 California. The Legislature encourages public officials and the
7 citizens of California to increase awareness about the symptoms
8 of, and the methods of preventing, COPD; and be it further

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