

Introduced by Senator Yee

April 7, 2010

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 97, as introduced, 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,
4 political, and social contributions, and are the majority in eight
5 California cities and the second largest group in four California
6 counties; and

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

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

14 WHEREAS, In this country there is a critical need to raise
15 awareness about mental health, particularly within the Asian Pacific

1 American community, to destigmatize seeking help, and to gain
2 access to culturally competent community services; and

3 WHEREAS, Asian Pacific Americans use mental health services
4 at the lowest rates among ethnic populations. This may be due to
5 the substantial stigma that exists among Asian Pacific Americans,
6 as well as cultural and linguistic isolation of the community, family,
7 and individual; and

8 WHEREAS, There is an extreme lack of research regarding
9 Asian Pacific Americans and mental health issues. A combination
10 of psychosocial and pharmacological treatments and supports prove
11 to be highly effective with 70 percent to 90 percent, inclusive, of
12 individuals with mental health issues having significant reduction
13 of symptoms and improved quality of life; and

14 WHEREAS, Raising awareness about mental health in the Asian
15 Pacific American community encourages professional interest in
16 health and human services careers, fostering a diversified workforce
17 that reflects the community; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes May 10, 2010,
20 and each May 10 thereafter, as Asian Pacific American Mental
21 Health Day, and acknowledges the importance of raising awareness
22 about mental health in the Asian Pacific American community;
23 and be it further

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