

**Introduced by Senators Bates and Hill**

**(Coauthors: Senators Cannella, Dodd, Morrell, Nguyen, Stone, and Wilk)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bocanegra, Brough, Chávez, Gallagher, Harper, Kiley, Lackey, Maienschein, Mayes, Obernolte, Steinorth, Voepel, Waldron, and Wood)

July 18, 2017

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 68—Relative to drug abuse.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 68, as introduced, Bates. Drug abuse awareness.

This measure would designate the month of September 2017 as Opioid, Heroin, Fentanyl, and Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month, as specified.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Opioids are drugs that act on the nervous system
- 2 to conceal pain; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Today, prescription opioids are more widely used
- 4 than tobacco; and
- 5 WHEREAS, In 2015, more than 300,000,000 opioid
- 6 prescriptions were written in the United States; and
- 7 WHEREAS, From 1999 to 2015, more than 183,000 people
- 8 died from overdoses related to prescription opioids; and
- 9 WHEREAS, In 2015, 52,404 deaths in the United States were
- 10 caused by a drug overdose, of which 63 percent of those overdoses
- 11 involved opioids; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Drug overdoses kill more people in one year than
- 13 the number of motor vehicle fatalities in the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, The use of fentanyl is on the rise, with nearly seven  
2 times more confiscations of fentanyl from 2012 to 2014, totaling  
3 4,585 in 2014, according to the National Forensic Laboratory  
4 Information System; and

5 WHEREAS, Fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin and  
6 100 times more powerful than morphine, according to the federal  
7 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

8 WHEREAS, Aggregate annual costs for prescription opioid  
9 overdose, abuse, and dependence were over \$78.5 billion dollars;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Abuse of opioid pain relievers is the strongest risk  
12 factor for heroin abuse; and

13 WHEREAS, Seventy-Five percent of new heroin users were  
14 first addicted to a legally prescribed prescription opioid; and

15 WHEREAS, Many teens and young adults first use opioids  
16 when they are prescribed to them following an injury or routine  
17 procedure like the removal of wisdom teeth; and

18 WHEREAS, Each day in the United States, 580 people initiate  
19 heroin use; and

20 WHEREAS, Opioid use and misuse can create brain changes  
21 that lead to addiction; and

22 WHEREAS, Most people who are addicted to opioids cannot  
23 taper off, or use less of the drug over time, without help; and

24 WHEREAS, The long-term damage to individuals and families  
25 is highly detrimental; and

26 WHEREAS, September marks national Prescription Opioid and  
27 Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the month of  
30 September 2017 as Opioid, Heroin, Fentanyl, and Prescription  
31 Drug Abuse Awareness Month and encourages residents to show  
32 support for opioid and prescription drug awareness; and be it  
33 further

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