

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 215

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 174

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 215—Relative to public postsecondary education.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 16, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 215, Aroner. Public postsecondary education: social work education programs.

This measure would urge the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California to expand their enrollment in social work preparation programs. The measure would also request the California Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work and the California Social Work Education Center to collaborate with the California Community Colleges, the University of California, the California State University, the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, and other interested persons, to develop a master plan for social work education in the state that addresses the state's shortage of social workers and reflects the state's diverse population, to be submitted to the Legislature by January 1, 2004.

WHEREAS, Social workers provide invaluable services to adults, children, and families, helping them address critical issues such as child abuse, poverty, drug dependency, and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Social workers are the state's largest and often, the only provider of services to the mentally ill, developmentally disabled, seniors, children, and families facing intense socioeconomic pressures; and

WHEREAS, The need for qualified and culturally diverse social workers in California has significantly increased with the state's growing population, yet the number of graduates from schools of social work has remained constant over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, The total number of students graduating from social work programs, estimated at 1,500 per year, is inadequate to meet the numbers of human service staff currently needed in California public social service agencies; and

WHEREAS, The social worker shortage has become alarmingly high due to barriers associated with recruitment, retention, and most



importantly, an inadequate number of available spaces for social work students in social work education programs; now, therefor, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate concurring, That the Legislature urges the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California to expand their enrollment in social work preparation programs, in order to meet the growing social service demands of the people of California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature requests the California Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work and the California Social Work Education Center to collaborate with the California Community Colleges, the University of California, the California State University, the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, and other interested stakeholders, including employers and representatives of populations served by social workers, to develop a master plan, to be submitted to the Legislature by January 1, 2004, for social work education in the State of California, that reflects the state's diverse population and is designed to address the state's shortage of social workers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy of this resolution to the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, to the Trustees of the California State University, to the Regents of the University of California, to the California Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work, to the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, and to the California Social Work Education Center.

