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Introduced by Senator Figueroa

May 6, 2002

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 83—Relative to Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) Syndrome Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 83, as introduced, Figueroa. Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) Syndrome Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim May 2002 as Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) Syndrome Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) Syndrome,  
2 a progressive multisymptom, multisystem, neuromuscular, and  
3 neurovascular disorder, is a debilitating chronic pain disease  
4 simultaneously involving nerves, muscles, blood vessels, skin,  
5 bones, and tissue; and

6 WHEREAS, It can develop after an injury, minor or major, and  
7 generally occurs in a limb; and

8 WHEREAS, RSD attacks the sympathetic nervous system,  
9 causing it to become confused, leading to a variety of symptoms  
10 that result in devastating consequences; and

11 WHEREAS, If misdiagnosed or left untreated, RSD begins to  
12 damage the surrounding tissues, and can spread to virtually all  
13 areas of the body and ultimately lead to total disability; and

14 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis is crucial; there is a short window  
15 of time during which RSD can possibly be mitigated, usually  
16 within the first three to six months after onset; and

1 WHEREAS, Proper aggressive treatment by qualified pain  
2 management professionals can lead to relief of pain and associated  
3 symptoms; and

4 WHEREAS, As RSD progresses, treatment becomes  
5 increasingly difficult; and

6 WHEREAS, Although millions in the United States are affected  
7 with RSD, exceeding the combined totals of those with  
8 HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, and multiple sclerosis, it is not well  
9 known by the public or some medical professionals, and this lack  
10 of knowledge causes many patients to suffer needlessly for many  
11 years; and

12 WHEREAS, RSD knows no age, gender, race, or nationality  
13 barrier and can strike anyone at anytime; and

14 WHEREAS, Other events that can cause RSD include  
15 infections, cuts, pricks of fingers or toes, soft tissue injuries, crush  
16 injuries, injury to any area rich in nerve endings, fractures, sprains,  
17 dislocations, broken bones, multiple trauma to a particular body  
18 part, surgical procedures, invasive procedures, and repetitive  
19 motion disorders, such as that which causes carpal tunnel  
20 syndrome; and

21 WHEREAS, Some signs and symptoms of RSD include severe  
22 burning pain in a localized area that is out of proportion to the  
23 severity of the injury, localized edema or swelling that may not  
24 always be apparent in the later stages, hyperesthesia, which is  
25 oversensitivity to touch and light pressure, vasospasm, which  
26 affects color and temperature of skin, muscle atrophy, constant  
27 burning pain, decreased range of motion, muscle spasms, stiffness,  
28 restricted mobility, and rapid hair and nail growth; and

29 WHEREAS, Although RSD sufferers may experience some or  
30 all of the signs and symptoms, the one common element is constant  
31 burning pain, the intensity of which can often fluctuate due to use  
32 of the affected area, mental distress, environmental temperature,  
33 visual and auditory stimuli, or for no apparent reason; and

34 WHEREAS, Secondary to the physical suffering, those with  
35 progressive RSD may suffer from great emotional and social harm  
36 including depression, anxiety, isolation, career loss, financial ruin,  
37 abandonment by family and friends, life-long disability, and  
38 suicide; and

39 WHEREAS, Although RSD dates back to the Civil War, there  
40 is no known cure; and



1 WHEREAS, Medical professionals must find the cause before  
2 they can find the cure; and

3 WHEREAS, Because RSD is not a well known disease it does  
4 not receive adequate funding for needed medical research; and

5 WHEREAS, Greater awareness of RSD in the medical  
6 community and general public will lead to earlier intervention and  
7 increased funding resulting in much improved, long-term quality  
8 of life; now, therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
10 *thereof concurring*, That the California Legislature proclaims May  
11 2002 as Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) Syndrome  
12 Awareness Month; and be it further

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

