RN1716700  AP 11

**INTRODUCED BY SENIOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER KROHN**

(COAUTHORS: SENIOR SENATORS BORTEL AND MUKOYAMA)

Legislative Counsel’s Digest

AP 11: CREATE GERIATRIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STATE LEVEL POSITION.

UNDER EXISTING LAW, IN THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING, THERE IS A SENIOR WELLNESS PROGRAM THAT FOCUSES ON EDUCATING CAREGIVERS AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SENIORS’ MENTAL WELL-BEING AND PROMOTES TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONALS AND CAREGIVERS WHO WORK DIRECTLY WITH SENIORS IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE WELLNESS.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A GERIATRIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POSITION WITHIN THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO PROVIDE SENIOR LEVEL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP AND EXPERT SUPPORT AS SPECIFIED.

VOTE MAJORITY.

AP 11: RELATING TO GERIATRIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

WHEREAS, AGING ADULTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES LACK SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO THEIR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS, THEREBY INCREASING THE COST TO THE STATE FOR THESE TYPES OF TREATMENT; AND

WHEREAS, IN THE UNITED STATES, ESTIMATES FROM 2013 PLACE THE TOTAL ECONOMIC COST OF UNTREATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES BETWEEN $150,000,000,000 AND $200,000,000,000 PER YEAR; AND

WHEREAS, THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE IS TOO SMALL AND UNPREPARED TO MEET THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OF OLDER ADULTS AND OLDER DISABLED PERSONS; AND

WHEREAS, THE CURRENT WORKFORCE THAT PROVIDES CARE TO OLDER ADULTS VARIES FROM PERSONS WITH NO EDUCATION IN GERIATRICS OR GERONTOLOGY TO PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE THE MOST ADVANCED SPECIALIZED PSYCHIATRIC TRAINING; AND

WHEREAS, CALIFORNIA LACKS A SENIOR LEVEL PUBLIC OFFICIAL WITH EXPERTISE IN AGING OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE WHO CAN PROVIDE LEADERSHIP, OVERSIGHT, AND COORDINATION TO EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGING AND MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY AND THE SENIOR SENATE, JOINTLY, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AT ITS 2017 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT A GERIATRIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POSITION BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO PROVIDE SENIOR LEVEL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP AND EXPERT SUPPORT; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE LEGISLATURE AND THE CALIFORNIA MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL BE ENCOURAGED TO APPROVE THE BUDGET ALLOCATED TO IMPLEMENT THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT’S FIVE-YEAR EDUCATION AND TRAINING DEVELOPMENT PLAN; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESPECTFULLY MEMORIALIZES THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE CONCERNS SET FORTH IN THIS MEASURE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS MEASURE BE TRANSMITTED TO THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.