RN1716780 **SP 12**

**INTRODUCED BY SENIOR SENATOR BORTEL**

Legislative Counsel’s Digest

SP 12: CAREGIVER AND FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNICATION WITH PERSONS SUFFERING FROM DEMENTIA OR OTHER MENTAL ILLNESSES: STATE CARD.

UNDER EXISTING LAW, THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING IS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY WITH THE MISSION OF PROVIDING LEADERSHIP TO AREA AGENCIES ON AGING IN DEVELOPING SYSTEMS OF HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES THAT MAINTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN THEIR HOMES OR LEAST RESTRICTIVE HOMELIKE ENVIRONMENTS. UNDER EXISTING LAW, THE DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT, COORDINATION, AND UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES TO MEET THE LONG-TERM CARE NEEDS OF OLDER INDIVIDUALS.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE AN APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCY TO CREATE A CARD BASED ON THE “DETECT AND CONNECT” CARD USED WITHIN THE COUNTY OF MARIN THAT CONTAINS INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH A PERSON SUFFERING FROM DEMENTIA OR OTHER MENTAL ILLNESSES AND A LIST OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CONTACT IF ELDER ABUSE IS SUSPECTED. THE MEASURE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT $500,000 BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING TO DISTRIBUTE THE CARD TO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES, NURSING HOMES, RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY, HOSPITALS, IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICE WORKERS, OTHER CAREGIVERS, AND FIRST RESPONDERS, SUCH AS PARAMEDICS, FIRE DEPARTMENTS, AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

VOTE MAJORITY.

SP 12: RELATING TO CAREGIVER AND FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNICATION WITH PERSONS SUFFERING FROM DEMENTIA OR OTHER MENTAL ILLNESSES

WHEREAS, EDUCATING CAREGIVERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS, RATHER THAN ONLY MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, CAN GO A LONG WAY TOWARD FOSTERING A WIDER UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PEOPLE THEY ARE TRYING TO HELP. MANY PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA OR OTHER MENTAL ILLNESSES DO NOT COMPREHEND ORDINARY DAY-TO-DAY COMMUNICATION; AND

WHEREAS, AS LIFE EXPECTANCY CONTINUES TO GROW, MORE PEOPLE WILL SUFFER FROM ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE, DEMENTIA, AND OTHER MENTAL ILLNESSES. AT 85 YEARS OF AGE, 45 PERCENT OF CALIFORNIANS WILL HAVE ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE. ALTHOUGH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH SPENDS HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TOWARD RESEARCH, THE MAGIC PILL IS ELUSIVE AND DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ON THE HORIZON. THUS, WE MUST COPE WITH OUR FAMILY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO DO NOT FUNCTION ON THE SAME LEVEL OF REALITY THEY DID IN THE PAST. WE SHOULD NOT AVOID COMMUNICATION WITH OUR LOVED ONES AND OTHERS IN OUR CARE BECAUSE THERE ARE NO TOOLS TO TRAIN US TO PROPERLY CONNECT WITH THEM. THIS COMMUNICATION BARRIER HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CAUSE OF UNINTENTIONAL STRESS, ABERRANT BEHAVIOR, ANGER, UNNECESSARY CONFINEMENT, OR LEGAL ACTIONS SUCH AS ARRESTS OR FINES; AND

WHEREAS, THE AGING ACTION INITIATIVE, A TASK FORCE WITHIN THE COUNTY OF MARIN GEARED TOWARD BRINGING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC ENTITIES TOGETHER TO HELP SENIORS, HAS DEVELOPED THE “DETECT AND CONNECT” COMMUNICATIONS CARD TO BRIDGE THE WELL-RECOGNIZED COMMUNICATION GAP WITH PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM DEMENTIA OR OTHER MENTAL ILLNESSES; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR SENATE AND THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY, 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 AN APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCY CREATE A CARD BASED ON THE “DETECT AND CONNECT” CARD USED WITHIN THE COUNTY OF MARIN. THE CARD SHALL CONTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH A PERSON SUFFERING FROM DEMENTIA OR OTHER MENTAL ILLNESSES AND A LIST OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CONTACT IF ELDER ABUSE IS SUSPECTED. IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT $500,000 BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING TO DISTRIBUTE THE CARD TO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES, NURSING HOMES, RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY, HOSPITALS, IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICE WORKERS, OTHER CAREGIVERS, AND FIRST RESPONDERS, SUCH AS PARAMEDICS, FIRE DEPARTMENTS, AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS; 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 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.