RN1716715 **SP 5**

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Legislative Counsel’s Digest

SP 5: HEALTH: ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT: COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT.

UNDER THE FEDERAL PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES ARE ENTITLED TO AN ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT THAT INCLUDES A COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE PATIENTS, WHO ARE MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES IN CALIFORNIA, TO BE OFFERED, AS PART OF THIS BENEFIT, A COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT THAT IS CAPABLE OF DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT AND NORMAL AGING, IN ORDER FOR THE CAUSES OF COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT TO BE DETECTED IN THEIR EARLIEST AND MOST TREATABLE STAGE.

VOTE MAJORITY.

SP 5: RELATING TO COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, ANNUAL DIRECT MEDICARE COSTS FOR PERSONS WITH DEMENTIA ARE APPROXIMATELY $20,000, WHILE COSTS FOR COGNITIVELY NORMAL MEDICAL BENEFICIARIES ARE APPROXIMATELY $4,000 ANNUALLY, AND COSTS FOR PERSONS WITH MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT (MCI) ARE APPROXIMATELY $7,500 ANNUALLY. THE INCREASED COSTS AMONG PERSONS WITH DEMENTIA ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE SEVERITY OF DEMENTIA AND CAN BE SUBSTANTIALLY LOWERED BY EARLY DETECTION OF COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT AND BY DELAYING ITS PROGRESSION; AND

WHEREAS, APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF OF ALL PERSONS WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT DO NOT HAVE ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE (AD), BUT, RATHER, HAVE A CONDITION THAT CAN BE ARRESTED OR IMPROVED. HOWEVER, IF THIS NON-AD CONDITION IS NOT DETECTED UNTIL THE PERSON IS DEMENTED, IT IS DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO REVERSE THE DEMENTIA. THEREFORE, FOR THESE INDIVIDUALS, EARLY DETECTION AND PROPER DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT MAY GREATLY REDUCE THE CURRENT 400 PERCENT ANNUAL INCREASE IN DIRECT MEDICARE COSTS. THIS APPROACH WOULD ALSO REDUCE STATE COSTS BECAUSE FEWER PERSONS WOULD REQUIRE INSTITUTIONALIZATION, AND THE DURATION OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION WOULD BE SHORTER; AND

WHEREAS, FOR THE REMAINING ONE-HALF OF COGNITIVELY IMPAIRED PERSONS WHO HAVE AD, RECENT LONG-TERM STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT THE MCI AND DEMENTIA SEVERITY STAGES CAN BE DELAYED BY AN AVERAGE OF 33 PERCENT AND 50 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY. THE MEAN DURATION OF UNTREATED AD IS SEVEN YEARS DURING THE MCI SEVERITY STAGE AND SEVEN YEARS DURING THE DEMENTIA SEVERITY STAGE. IF AD IS DETECTED EARLY DURING THE MCI STAGE, THEN PROPER MEDICATION CAN DELAY AD PROGRESSION BY AN AVERAGE OF FIVE TO SIX YEARS; AND

WHEREAS, DELAYED ONSET AND PROGRESSION MEANS THAT INDIVIDUALS WITH AD WILL LIKELY DIE AT A SEVERITY LEVEL AT WHICH THEY WILL NEED SOME ASSISTANCE WITH WELL-LEARNED ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING, INCLUDING COOKING, SHOPPING, DRIVING, AND PAYING BILLS, AND MAY NEED SOME ASSISTANCE SELECTING THE PROPER CLOTHING TO WEAR TO A PARTICULAR EVENT. ON AVERAGE, THEY WILL NOT REQUIRE INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND CAN LIVE AT HOME WITH SOME ASSISTANCE. WITHOUT SUCH EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT, PERSONS WITH AD WILL LIKELY DIE MUTE, INCONTINENT OF BOWEL AND BLADDER, UNABLE TO WALK, AND POSSIBLY UNABLE TO SWALLOW, AND THEY WILL HAVE SPENT TWO AND ONE-HALF TO THREE AND ONE-HALF YEARS IN AN ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING FACILITY; AND

WHEREAS, PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION IS A FIRST STEP IN INCREASING THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN BE DETECTED IN THE EARLIEST STAGES OF MCI SO THAT THE UNDERLYING CAUSE CAN BE DIAGNOSED AND EFFECTIVELY TREATED, THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED, AND THE HEALTHCARE COSTS GREATLY REDUCED; 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 MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE PATIENTS, WHO ARE MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES IN CALIFORNIA, BE OFFERED, AS PART OF THE ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT PROVIDED BY THE FEDERAL AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, A VALID COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT THAT IS ABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT AND NORMAL AGING, IN ORDER FOR THE CAUSES OF COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT TO BE DETECTED IN THEIR EARLIEST AND MOST TREATABLE STAGE; 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.