

**INTRODUCED BY SENIOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER KROHN****LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST****AP 18: GERIATRIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH.**

UNDER EXISTING LAW, THERE IS IN THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING 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 TWO GERIATRIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POSITIONS TO PROVIDE SENIOR LEVEL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP AND EXPERT SUPPORT: ONE WITHIN THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND THE LOCAL AGING NETWORKS, AND ONE WITHIN THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AS SPECIFIED.

VOTE: MAJORITY.

AP 18: 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 THEIR TREATMENT; AND

WHEREAS, THE COST OF UNTREATED MENTAL HEALTH ILLNESSES ALONE IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$564,000,000 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, MORE THAN ONE MILLION ADDITIONAL DIRECT CARE WORKERS WILL BE NEEDED BY THE YEAR 2018; AND

WHEREAS, THERE IS NOT A SENIOR LEVEL PUBLIC OFFICIAL IN CALIFORNIA TODAY WITH EXPERTISE IN AGING OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE WHO PROVIDES LEADERSHIP, OVERSIGHT, AND COORDINATION TO EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVEL 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 2013 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT TWO GERIATRIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POSITIONS BE ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE SENIOR LEVEL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP AND EXPERT SUPPORT: ONE WITHIN THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND THE LOCAL AGING NETWORKS, AND ONE WITHIN THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THESE TWO POSITIONS BE ESTABLISHED AND FUNDED AS PART OF THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FIVE-YEAR PLAN; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE LEGISLATURE AND THE MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL BE ENCOURAGED TO APPROVE THE BUDGET ALLOCATED TO IMPLEMENT THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FIVE-YEAR 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.