

State of Maine



WHEREAS, pain is one of our nation's most serious health problems. An estimated 50 million Americans live with chronic pain caused by various diseases or disorders and each year nearly 25 million Americans suffer with acute pain; and

WHEREAS, medical knowledge and technology exist to relieve or greatly ease pain, but most pain goes untreated, under treated, or improperly treated; and the majority of healthcare professionals are still unaware of how to treat pain effectively. Most people with pain, including those at the end of life, get little relief or no relief; and

WHEREAS, people who suffer from chronic pain are too often stigmatized and marginalized and often not informed about their right to effective pain assessment and management; and

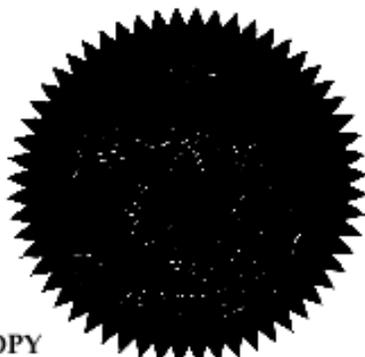
WHEREAS, Partners for Understanding Pain is a consortium of organization that touch the lives of people with chronic, acute, and cancer pain. On the state level, the Maine Pain Initiative, a committee of the Maine Hospice Council, is a multidisciplinary group of health care professionals, consumers, and other interested persons, serving as an advocate for people experiencing pain; and

WHEREAS, these coalitions seek to increase awareness surrounding the under treatment of pain in the State Of Maine, to inspire people to work toward reducing barriers and increasing access to appropriate pain management, and to improve the quality of life of those suffering from pain,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2004 as

PAIN AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to unite to improve the quality of life for people in Maine suffering from pain.



Dan A. Gwadosky
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY

In testimony whereof, I have caused
the Great Seal of the State to be
hereunto affixed GIVEN under my
hand at Augusta this twenty-sixth
day of June in the Year of our
Lord Two Thousand and Four.

John E. Baldacci
John E. Baldacci
Governor

**Introduced by Senators Figueroa, Alpert, Chesbro, Ducheny,
Escutia, Karnette, Kuehl, Ortiz, Romero, Soto, and Speier**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bates, Berg, Chan, Chu, Cohn,
Corbett, Daucher, Garcia, Goldberg, Hancock, Shirley Horton,
Jackson, Kehoe, Lieber, Liu, Matthews, Montanez, Negrete
McLeod, Oropeza, Parra, Pavley, Reyes, Wiggins, and Wolk)

June 9, 2004

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 86—Relative to Pain Awareness
Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 86, as introduced, Figueroa. Pain Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of September 2004 as Pain
Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Pain is one of our nation's serious health problems.
2 More than 75 million Americans live with chronic pain caused by
3 various diseases or disorders, and each year nearly 25 million
4 Americans suffer with acute pain; and
5 WHEREAS, Though medical knowledge and technology exist
6 to relieve or greatly ease pain, most pain is untreated, undertreated,
7 or improperly treated, and many health care professionals are still
8 unaware of how to effectively treat pain. Most people with pain,
9 including those at the end of life, get little or no relief; and
10 WHEREAS, People who suffer from chronic pain are often
11 stigmatized and marginalized and are often not informed about the
12 right to effective pain assessment and management; and

1 WHEREAS, The California-based Partners for Understanding
2 Pain is a growing coalition of pain sufferers, physicians, nurses,
3 social workers, pharmacists, therapists, civic leaders, nonprofit
4 organizations, and health care businesses whose mission is to
5 improve the quality of life for people in California experiencing
6 pain; and

7 WHEREAS, It is the collective mission of this movement to
8 provide practical information for people with pain, inform health
9 care professionals about pain management, and serve as an
10 advocate for people experiencing pain; now, therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
12 *thereof concurring*, That the month of September 2004 is hereby
13 proclaimed as Pain Awareness Month, and that all Californians are
14 hereby respectfully requested to improve the quality of life for
15 people in California suffering from pain; and be it further

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

