

Date of Hearing: May 4, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Susan Talamantes Eggman, Chair

ACR 169 (Dahle) – As Introduced April 13, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Health Care District Month.

**SUMMARY:** Designates the month of May 2016 as Health Care District Month. Specifically, **this resolution** makes a number of findings, including the following:

- 1) Health care districts were created after World War II to address a shortage of access to acute hospital care for many areas of the state, particularly the rural areas of California.
- 2) The first health care district was formed in 1946 and the first district hospital opened in 1947.
- 3) Today there are 78 health care districts in California; 40 health care districts currently operate 43 district hospitals.
- 4) Their primary mission has not changed, which is to provide health services to the communities that created them.
- 5) District hospitals make up 26 of the state's rural hospitals and 20 of the state's critical access hospitals.
- 6) District hospitals provided \$71 million in charity care in 2013, offering financial support to community programs focused on the health and well-being of the children and adults in the districts.
- 7) Fifty health care districts operate in a health professional shortage area, a medically underserved area, or a medically underserved population.
- 8) Health care districts collectively provide the following services: acute care, emergency care, skilled nursing or long-term care, community and rural health clinics, ambulance services, adult day care, senior housing and nutritional support, chronic disease management, health education, medical transportation, home health, and hospice.
- 9) Health care districts cover 49,354 square miles of the state, provide services in 40 counties, employ around 32,000 employees, and see more than 4,000,000 patient visits annually.
- 10) Health care districts are formed by the will of the people, with board members elected and accountable to their communities. Health care districts are often supported in part by local tax dollars to improve community health.
- 11) Health care districts serve as an integral part of the safety net for the state's underinsured or uninsured.

- 12) In 2013, health care districts treated approximately 1.4 million Medi-Cal beneficiaries, or 9 percent of the statewide total.
- 13) Each health care district is uniquely focused on the specific needs of the community it serves.
- 14) Health care districts utilize a varying revenue stream, workforce size, services offered, and geographic locations to cater to the health services most needed by their communities.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Bill Summary.** ACR 169 makes a number of findings and designates the month of May 2016 as Health Care District Month.
- 2) **Author's Statement.** According to the author, "ACR 169 seeks to raise awareness about California healthcare districts by recognizing May 2016 as Healthcare District Month."
- 3) **Related Legislation.** ACR 69 (Chavez), Res. Chapter 80, Statutes of 2015, proclaimed the month of May 2015 as Health Care District Month in California.
- 4) **Arguments in Support.** The Association of California Healthcare Districts, sponsor of this resolution, states: "ACHD represents 78 healthcare special districts throughout California, in both urban and rural settings. Districts offer a variety of services aimed at improving community health including acute hospital care, chronic disease management education, senior services, ambulance services, primary care clinics, dental clinics, nutritional counseling, physical education, and long term care/skilled nursing, among others. In communities across the state, Healthcare Districts are the sole source of health care – serving as an integral part of the safety net for the state's uninsured and underinsured."
- 5) **Arguments in Opposition.** None on file.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

Association of California Healthcare Districts [SPONSOR]  
California Special Districts Association  
District Hospital Leadership Forum

**Opposition**

None on file

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