

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24—ASSEMBLYMEN OHRENSCHALL, FREEMAN,
DE BRAGA, MANENDO, CHOWNING, GIBBONS AND PARKS

MAY 5, 1999

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS RAWSON AND TITUS

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to adopt federal legislation mandating warning label on products that contain steroid ingredient. (BDR R-1728)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the Congress of the United States to adopt federal legislation mandating a warning label on products that contain a steroid ingredient.

- 1 WHEREAS, Steroid therapy is used to treat many illnesses including
- 2 ulcerative colitis, lupus, asthma, rheumatic fever, allergies and numerous
- 3 other problems with millions of prescriptions being written each year; and
- 4 WHEREAS, When prescribed and used correctly, synthetic steroid
- 5 hormones can work wonders and reduce side effects, but when safeguards
- 6 are ignored, serious problems can result, lives can be devastated and
- 7 fatalities can occur; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Steroid use is the most common cause of Cushing's
- 9 syndrome, which affects almost every system in the body, and Dr. David
- 10 Orth of Vanderbilt University estimates that 250,000 people a year develop
- 11 Cushing's syndrome from prolonged use of steroids; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Other serious side effects of steroid use include
- 13 hypertension, numerous skin problems, myopathy, suppression of the
- 14 immune response, depression, hair loss, arthritis, coronary artery disease,
- 15 osteoporosis, cataracts, sleep disorders, tremors, headaches, and growth
- 16 retardation in children; and

1 WHEREAS, Steroid-induced medical problems can mimic many other
2 medical conditions which often causes physicians to treat symptoms instead
3 of recognizing the underlying problem; and

4 WHEREAS, Manufacturers are not required to label the outside
5 packaging of their products as containing "steroid" ingredients, and
6 unsuspecting consumers are caught unaware of the possible side effects and
7 of the manufacturers' recommended precautions regarding usage of these
8 medications; and

9 WHEREAS, Prescription medicines that contain steroid ingredients
10 include nasal sprays, eye drops, bronchial inhalers, skin creams, ointments
11 and lotions, and many physicians fail to inform their patients adequately
12 about steroids in their medications and the associated risks and
13 recommended precautions; and

14 WHEREAS, Many products that contain steroid ingredients are available
15 without prescription, such as many anti-wrinkle creams, and are used by
16 consumers without medical supervision and without knowledge that the
17 products contain steroids or why that fact is important; and

18 WHEREAS, Leslie W. Ortega of Las Vegas, Nevada, has founded the
19 Steroid Warning Network, a nonprofit organization devoted to providing
20 information and emotional support for those who suffer from steroid-
21 related medical problems, which is currently working for federal legislation
22 mandating the labeling of products that contain steroid ingredients; and

23 WHEREAS, The Steroid Warning Network has created an Internet
24 website whose address is lvvj.com/communitylink/steroidwarning that
25 disseminates this information internationally; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
27 JOINTLY, That the members of the 70th session of the Nevada Legislature
28 do hereby urge the Congress of the United States to adopt legislation
29 mandating that all products containing a steroid ingredient, including over-
30 the-counter products and prescription drugs, be externally labeled as
31 containing a "steroid" ingredient by the manufacturer and include inside the
32 packaging an insert of information regarding:

- 33 1. The percentage of each steroid contained in the product;
- 34 2. Possible adverse reactions and side effects related to the use of the
35 product, some of which may appear after cessation of its use; and
- 36 3. The smallest dosage judged to be effective with strong
37 recommendations regarding limited duration of use; and be it further

38 RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature hereby supports efforts of the
39 Steroid Warning Network to inform consumers of the problems related to
40 the use of products containing steroid ingredients and to assist those
41 already adversely affected; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a
2 copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the
3 presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
4 Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation and
5 Leslie W. Ortega, Founder of the Steroid Warning Network; and be it
6 further
7 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and
8 approval.

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