

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 24—Assemblymen Ohrenschall, Freeman,
de Braga, Manendo, Chowning, Gibbons and Parks

Joint Sponsors: Senators Rawson and Titus

FILE NUMBER.....

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.

WHEREAS, Steroid therapy is used to treat many illnesses including ulcerative colitis, lupus, asthma, rheumatic fever, allergies and numerous other problems with millions of prescriptions being written each year; and

WHEREAS, When prescribed and used correctly, synthetic steroid hormones can work wonders and reduce side effects, but when safeguards are ignored, serious problems can result, lives can be devastated and fatalities can occur; and

WHEREAS, Steroid use is the most common cause of Cushing's syndrome, which affects almost every system in the body, and Dr. David Orth of Vanderbilt University estimates that 250,000 people a year develop Cushing's syndrome from prolonged use of steroids; and

WHEREAS, Other serious side effects of steroid use include hypertension, numerous skin problems, myopathy, suppression of the immune response, depression, hair loss, arthritis, coronary artery disease, osteoporosis, cataracts, sleep disorders, tremors, headaches, and growth retardation in children; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation and Leslie W. Ortega, Founder of the Steroid Warning Network; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and approval.

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