

House Resolution 869

By: Representative Dempsey of the 13th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the problem of untreated and undertreated chronic pain and requesting that the
2 appropriate agencies of state government examine how the state can improve the health and
3 productivity of its citizens and reduce personal and government health expenditures by
4 following the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine report; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, over 100 million adults suffer from chronic pain, including millions with
6 debilitating conditions like chronic lower back pain, fibromyalgia, and arthritis; and

7 WHEREAS, chronic pain costs America up to \$635 billion a year in added health costs and
8 lost productivity, including billions of dollars in state Medicaid costs; and

9 WHEREAS, chronic pain is a major public health problem and a hidden driver of rising
10 health care costs; and

11 WHEREAS, significant barriers to adequate pain care exist, and millions of Americans get
12 inadequate pain care; and

13 WHEREAS, these findings were made by the prestigious Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the
14 National Academy of Sciences in its landmark report issued in 2011, *Relieving Pain in*
15 *America: A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care, Education, and Research*; and

16 WHEREAS, the IOM report includes a number of recommendations to improve pain care,
17 education, and research; and

18 WHEREAS, the IOM report found that significant savings could be achieved through better
19 treatment of acute pain, reduction in workers' compensation costs and lost tax revenues, and
20 a reduced burden of opioid abuse and misuse.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
22 the members of this body do hereby recognize the problem of untreated and undertreated
23 chronic pain and request that the appropriate agencies of state government examine how the
24 state can improve the health and productivity of its citizens and reduce personal and
25 government health expenditures by following the recommendations of the Institute of
26 Medicine report.