

House Resolution 979

By: Representative Dempsey of the 13th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the problem of untreated and undertreated chronic pain and commending the
2 Institute of Medicine for its report on how to address the problem of chronic pain; and for
3 other purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21 the members of this body do hereby recognize the problem of untreated and undertreated

- 22 chronic pain and commend the Institute of Medicine for its report on how to address the
23 problem of chronic pain.