

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 25, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 15, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005—06 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 144**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Nation**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Arambula, Baca, Bass, Benoit, Berg, Bermudez, Blakeslee, Bogh, Calderon, Canciamilla, Chan, Chavez, Chu, Cogdill, Cohn, Coto, Daucher, De La Torre, DeVore, Dymally, Emmerson, Evans, Frommer, Garcia, Goldberg, Hancock, Harman, Jerome Horton, Shirley Horton, Houston, Huff, Jones, Karnette, Keene, Klehs, Koretz, La Malfa, La Suer, Laird, Leno, Leslie, Levine, Lieber, Lieu, Liu, Matthews, Maze, McCarthy, Montanez, Mountjoy, Mullin, Nakanishi, Nava, Negrete McLeod, Niello, Nunez, Oropeza, Parra, Pavley, Plescia, Richman, Ridley-Thomas, Sharon Runner, Ruskin, Saldana, Salinas, Spitzer, Strickland, Torrico, Tran, Umberg, Vargas, Villines, Walters, Wolk, Wyland, and Yee)*

April 26, 2006

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 144—Relative to Skin Cancer Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 144, as amended, Nation. Skin Cancer Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of May 2006, as Skin Cancer Awareness Month, and would encourage all Californians to make themselves and their families aware of the risk of skin cancer and the measures that can be taken to prevent it.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Malignant melanoma, a serious skin cancer, is  
2 characterized by the uncontrolled growth of pigment-producing  
3 tanning cells; and

4 WHEREAS, Excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVA  
5 and UVB) is the most important and preventable cause of  
6 melanoma. Other possible causes include genetic factors and  
7 immune deficiencies. Malignant melanoma has also been linked  
8 to past sunburns and sun and tanning device exposure at younger  
9 ages; and

10 WHEREAS, Melanoma can affect men, women, and children;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The incidence of melanoma has doubled in the  
13 last 20 years, and it continues to rise faster than any other cancer  
14 in women, except for lung cancer. Melanoma is the most  
15 common form of cancer among people between 25 and 29 years  
16 of age, and experts estimate that if the present rate continues,  
17 soon melanoma will strike one in 70 Californians; and

18 WHEREAS, Early detection is crucial. There is a direct  
19 correlation between the detection of melanoma and the survival  
20 rate. If melanoma is detected and treated early and aggressively  
21 by a qualified medical professional, the cure rate is very high;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Melanoma in its early stages may only be  
24 detected by visual inspection. Dermatologists recommend regular  
25 self-examination of the skin to detect changes in its appearance,  
26 especially changes in existing moles or blemishes. Additionally,  
27 patients with risk factors should have a complete skin  
28 examination annually; and

29 WHEREAS, On Monday, May 1, 2006, the California Society  
30 of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery engaged in its  
31 Seventh Annual Skin Cancer Awareness Day public health  
32 screening at the state capitol building, and in the six preceding  
33 years, the society has screened nearly 1,500 persons, including  
34 constitutional officers, Members of the Legislature, members of  
35 the capitol community, and the general public; and

36 WHEREAS, The California Society of Dermatology and  
37 Dermatologic Surgery has an outstanding record of service and  
38 leadership in advancing the cause of prevention, detection, and  
39 treatment of skin cancers and diseases of the skin, and in its  
40 service to the capitol community and the People of the State of

1 California, and is encouraged to continue its endeavors to expand  
2 these screening and detection efforts throughout the state; now,  
3 therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
5 *thereof concurring,* That the month of May 2006, shall be  
6 recognized as Skin Cancer Awareness Month in California, and  
7 that all Californians shall be encouraged to make themselves and  
8 their families aware of the risk of skin cancer as well as the  
9 measures that can be taken to prevent it.

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