

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 25

Introduced by Assembly Member Miller

February 17, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 25—Relative to Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 25, as introduced, Miller. Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.

This measure would proclaim the 3rd full week in September in each year as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week, and would urge California residents to observe the week with appropriate activities and programs.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Mitochondria are the power plants in every cell of
2 a person’s body and create more than 90 percent of the energy
3 needed by the body to sustain life and support growth; and
4 WHEREAS, Mitochondria may not function correctly due to
5 genetic defects or damage caused by drugs or destructive molecules
6 known as free radicals; and
7 WHEREAS, When mitochondria fail, cell injury and cell death
8 follow, and, if the process is repeated throughout the body, whole
9 systems begin to fail; and
10 WHEREAS, Mitochondrial diseases can cause isolated
11 symptoms, such as seizures, low blood counts, blindness, deafness,
12 dementia, heart failure, and progressive muscle weakness, but

1 more often they cause failure of several organ systems in sequence;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Mitochondrial diseases can affect any person at
4 any age; and

5 WHEREAS, It is estimated that every 30 minutes a child is born
6 that will develop a mitochondrial disease before he or she reaches
7 10 years of age, totaling 4,000 children each year; and

8 WHEREAS, At least one in 200 individuals in the general public
9 have a mitochondrial disease that may lead to another disease; and

10 WHEREAS, It is believed that mitochondrial diseases are
11 underdiagnosed because mitochondrial disorders mimic other
12 diseases and the diagnosis process itself is difficult and time
13 consuming, having only been first diagnosed in adults in the 1960s
14 and first diagnosed in children in the 1980s; and

15 WHEREAS, Research has consistently shown that mitochondrial
16 dysfunction is at the core of many very common illnesses and
17 chronic conditions of adulthood, including, but not limited to,
18 Alzheimer's, dementia, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, hypertension,
19 heart disease, osteoporosis, and cancer; and

20 WHEREAS, Currently no cures or effective therapies exist, but
21 early diagnosis can help a patient and his or her family use proper
22 medication and nutritional supplements to improve the quality of
23 life, and even to prolong life; and

24 WHEREAS, It is imperative that the federal government make
25 research for mitochondrial diseases a priority and fully fund
26 research initiatives to find a cure; and

27 WHEREAS, It is appropriate that all California residents be
28 better informed about mitochondrial diseases and their impact;
29 now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
31 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the third full
32 week in September in each year as Mitochondrial Disease
33 Awareness Week, and California residents are urged to observe
34 the week with appropriate activities and programs; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
36 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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