

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 19, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 64**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Ma**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Brownley, Eng, Evans, Fong, Lieu,**  
**Monning, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Torlakson, Torrico, and**  
**Yamada)**

April 20, 2009

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 64—Relative to Hepatitis B Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 64, as amended, Ma. Hepatitis B.

This measure would declare May 2009, to be Hepatitis B Awareness Month in California, ~~declare the Legislature's support of the goals and ideals of~~ *recognize May 19, 2009, as* World Hepatitis Awareness Day, and call on all interested parties to come together to raise awareness and educate the public on hepatitis B and to make recommendations on ways to implement best practices in hepatitis B prevention and treatment.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, May 19, 2009, is World Hepatitis Awareness Day;
- 2 and
- 3 WHEREAS, California does not currently have a comprehensive
- 4 statewide plan addressing the prevention and treatment of chronic
- 5 hepatitis B for all Californians; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Chronic hepatitis B is a condition that affects the
- 7 human liver, and when left untreated, can lead to further

1 complications, including cirrhosis, liver cancer, and ultimately,  
2 liver failure and death; and

3 WHEREAS, Chronic hepatitis B infection is among the top three  
4 causes of cancer in the world and causes the death of one person  
5 every 30 seconds; and

6 WHEREAS, In the United States, it is estimated that up to 2  
7 million people are chronically infected with hepatitis B; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 400,000 Californians are chronically  
9 infected with hepatitis B; and

10 WHEREAS, Chronic hepatitis B disproportionately affects  
11 certain communities of color. For example, chronic hepatitis B  
12 and liver cancer are the greatest health disparity for Asians and  
13 Pacific Islanders; and

14 WHEREAS, Asians and Pacific Islanders comprise 13 percent  
15 of the population of Los Angeles County and suffer from a rate of  
16 liver cancer more than triple than that of non-Hispanic whites; and

17 WHEREAS, San Francisco has the highest proportion of Asian  
18 and Pacific Islander populations in the continental United States  
19 and, correspondingly, has the highest rate of liver cancer in the  
20 nation; and,

21 WHEREAS, Chronic hepatitis B is preventable and in many  
22 cases can be cured or managed using currently available treatments;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, ~~But for many reasons~~ *For many reasons, however,*  
25 those at risk for hepatitis B infection are not receiving prevention  
26 information, while those chronically infected are not receiving  
27 treatment; and

28 WHEREAS, Given that chronic hepatitis B is a lifelong  
29 condition, some who are at risk refuse to be tested out of fear that  
30 a positive diagnosis will be considered as a permanent, preexisting  
31 condition for health care insurance underwriting purposes and will  
32 thereby put their future health care coverage at risk, especially if  
33 laid off and rehired by a second employer; now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
35 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature declares May 2009, to be  
36 Hepatitis B Awareness Month in California and ~~supports the goals~~  
37 ~~and ideals of~~ *recognizes May 19, 2009, as World Hepatitis*  
38 *Awareness Day;* and be it further

39 ~~Resolved, That~~

1     RESOLVED, *That* the Legislature calls on all interested parties,  
2 including, but not limited to, the public and private sector, for-profit  
3 sector, the private nonprofit sector, and the philanthropic  
4 community, to come together to raise awareness and educate the  
5 public on hepatitis B and to make recommendations on ways to  
6 implement best practices in hepatitis B prevention and treatment;  
7 and be it further,  
8     ~~Resolved, That~~  
9     RESOLVED, *That* the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit  
10 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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