

Introduced by Senator Runner

(Coauthors: Senators Aanestad, Benoit, Cox, Dutton, Harman, Hollingsworth, Huff, Maldonado, Strickland, Walters, and Wyland)

(Coauthor: Assembly Member Knight)

April 14, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 31—Relative to Scleroderma Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 31, as introduced, Runner. Scleroderma Awareness Month.

This measure would declare June 2009 as Scleroderma Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Scleroderma is a chronic, disabling autoimmune
2 disease in which the body's soft tissues suffer from an
3 overproduction of collagen; and
4 WHEREAS, Scleroderma can affect many parts of the body
5 including skin, internal organs, and blood vessels; and
6 WHEREAS, Scleroderma sufferers often experience damage
7 to the heart, lungs, kidneys, and the gastrointestinal system; and
8 WHEREAS, Many sufferers develop pulmonary hypertension
9 as a result of constriction of the blood vessels; and
10 WHEREAS, African Americans are more susceptible to systemic
11 scleroderma; and
12 WHEREAS, Researchers have yet to identify the exact cause
13 or causes of scleroderma; and

1 WHEREAS, Researchers have found links between scleroderma
2 and rheumatic disease; and

3 WHEREAS, An estimated 300,000 Americans suffer from
4 scleroderma, and 80 percent of those are women; and

5 WHEREAS, The estimated total economic impact of
6 scleroderma treatment is estimated to be in excess of \$1.5 billion
7 annually; and

8 WHEREAS, The morbidity cost associated with scleroderma
9 is an estimated \$819,000,000 annually; and

10 WHEREAS, The direct cost of treatment for scleroderma is
11 estimated to be \$462,000,000 annually; and

12 WHEREAS, There is a significant need for further research
13 focusing on the epidemiology of scleroderma to increase
14 understanding of the causes of the disease and its treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States Congress has recognized the
16 need to raise awareness of the impact of scleroderma on public
17 health and has designated a National Scleroderma Awareness
18 Month; and

19 WHEREAS, California should also designate a month as
20 Scleroderma Awareness Month to help educate the public about
21 autoimmune diseases and the need for increased research, funding,
22 and effective treatments for those diseases; and

23 WHEREAS, The designation of such a month would recognize
24 the efforts of health care providers, patients, and scleroderma
25 advocacy organizations to increase awareness of scleroderma and
26 of the need for increased research on scleroderma; and

27 WHEREAS, June 2009 would be an appropriate month to
28 designate as Scleroderma Awareness Month; now, therefore, be
29 it

30 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
31 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature proclaims the month of
32 June 2009 as Scleroderma Awareness Month; and be it further

33 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
34 the resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.