

**Introduced by Senators Calderon, Correa, DeSaulnier, Ducheny,
Lowenthal, and Wyland**

April 16, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33—Relative to Crohn’s and
Colitis Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 33, as introduced, Calderon. Crohn’s and Colitis Awareness
Month.

This measure would designate the month of May of each year to be
Crohn’s and Colitis Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, 1.4 million American adults and children suffer
2 from Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis, two serious and chronic
3 digestive diseases that can have life threatening complications;
4 and
5 WHEREAS, Over the last 50 years the diagnosis of Crohn’s
6 disease and ulcerative colitis has increased 20 fold, and continues
7 to become more prevalent; and
8 WHEREAS, In California, one in 200, or an estimated 200,000
9 residents, suffer from these digestive diseases, which are incurable
10 illnesses that attack the digestive system causing abdominal pain,
11 persistent diarrhea, rectal bleeding, fever, weight loss,
12 hospitalization, and surgery; and
13 WHEREAS, Between \$1.4 billion and \$1.8 billion are lost to
14 businesses and workers because of Crohn’s disease and ulcerative
15 colitis; and

1 WHEREAS, Due to the symptoms of these diseases, people
2 often live in silence about their suffering; and

3 WHEREAS, These diseases interfere with the ability to hold a
4 job, raise a family, go to school, and maintain relationships; and

5 WHEREAS, The symptoms and the chronic nature of these
6 diseases may cause severe social isolation, depression, and anxiety;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Diagnosis can occur at any age, but most people
9 develop Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis at the prime of their
10 lives, between 15 and 35 years of age, with 10 percent of victims
11 under the age of 18; and

12 WHEREAS, The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
13 is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization dedicated to finding
14 a cure and improving the quality of life for adults and children
15 affected by these digestive diseases. The foundation has designated
16 over \$150 million for research, which has lead to the latest medical
17 breakthroughs and genetic discoveries; and

18 WHEREAS, An example of the impact of Crohn's disease is
19 exemplified by Alexander Marcoccia, a 13-year-old Sacramento
20 resident battling Crohn's disease. Alexander experienced five
21 months of bleeding, extreme abdominal pain, fatigue, arthritis,
22 nausea, and lost 17 percent of his body weight, leaving this once
23 active boy challenged in his pursuit of school, sports, or any normal
24 childhood activities; and

25 WHEREAS, In the spring, and during May, the foundation hosts
26 Take Steps for Crohn's and Colitis, the nation's largest annual
27 event dedicated to finding the cure and improving the quality of
28 life for the children and adults affected by these seldom-discussed
29 diseases; and

30 WHEREAS, The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
31 honors Alexander Marcoccia for his courage in facing this difficult
32 and painful disease; and

33 WHEREAS, Alexander Marcoccia is the foundation's honored
34 hero, and is encouraging his community to join him at the Take
35 Steps event on May 9, 2009, at the State Capitol; now, therefore,
36 be it

37 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
38 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature joins Alexander
39 Marcoccia, the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, and
40 the 1.4 million Americans who suffer from Crohn's disease and

1 ulcerative colitis in the fight to defeat these debilitating digestive
2 diseases and create critically needed public awareness by
3 designating the month of May of each year to be Crohn's and
4 Colitis Awareness Month; and be it further
5 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
6 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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