

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 14, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 23

Introduced by Assembly Member Ma

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfeld, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Carter, Cedillo, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Davis, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Furutani, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Gorell, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Lara, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

(Principal coauthor: Senator Steinberg)

February 17, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 23—Relative to Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 23, as amended, Ma. Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

This measure would designate March 2011 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of
2 cancer deaths in both men and women in California, with 14,775
3 new cases and 5,085 deaths expected in 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is treatable, curable, and in many
5 cases, completely preventable; and

6 WHEREAS, When colorectal cancers are detected at an early
7 stage, five-year survival is 91 percent; and

8 WHEREAS, There were approximately 1 million colorectal
9 cancer survivors in the United States in 2002; and

10 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is known as a silent killer because
11 symptoms show up only in the later stages of the disease; and

12 WHEREAS, With proper screening, colorectal cancer can be
13 prevented or, if found early, treated and cured; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2005, only 56 percent of the population in
15 California had received colorectal cancer screening according to
16 the guidelines; and

17 WHEREAS, According to the Institute of Medicine, access to
18 appropriate use of colorectal cancer screening tests, such as
19 colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, and fecal occult blood test (FOBT),
20 could reduce death rates of colon cancer up to 80 percent; and

21 WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society, in
22 2008, only about 44 percent of colorectal cancers were diagnosed
23 at an early, more treatable and curable stage; and

24 WHEREAS, The uninsured, underinsured, and underserved are
25 least likely to get screening and treatment for colorectal cancer,
26 which means that they are more likely to be diagnosed at a late
27 stage when chances of survival drop to 12 percent; and

28 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer screening is one of the most
29 cost-effective prevention measures in health care, more cost
30 effective than breast or prostate cancer screening; and

31 WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest colorectal
32 cancer incidence and mortality rates of all racial groups in this
33 country, and early detection rates among African Americans in
34 California are low; and

35 WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos in California have lower
36 rates of screening for colorectal cancer, and lower rates of early
37 detection of the disease; and

38 WHEREAS, In California, colorectal cancer is the most common
39 cancer among Korean men, the second most common cancer among
40 Korean women, and the second most common cancer among

1 Japanese men and women, and only 43 percent of colorectal
2 cancers in Asians and Pacific Islanders are caught at an early stage;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The California Colorectal Cancer Coalition (C4)
5 is a nonprofit organization established to increase colorectal cancer
6 screening rates in an effort to decrease mortality associated with
7 the disease, and implement strategies to reduce disparities in
8 colorectal cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment among
9 underserved populations in California; and

10 WHEREAS, C4 encourages Californians to discuss the
11 colorectal cancer screening test that is best for them with their
12 doctors and believes that the best test is the one you have done;
13 now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates March
16 2011 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; and be it further

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