

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 81

Introduced by Assembly Member Skinner

August 23, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 81—Relative to Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 81, as introduced, Skinner. Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

This measure would designate the month of September of every year as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month throughout the State of California, and would encourage and promote efforts to educate the people and the health care practitioners of the state regarding ovarian cancer and its early detection and prevention, the risk factors involved in its development, and the early warning symptoms and signs.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Each year in the United States, over 21,000 women
2 are diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and about 15,000 women die
3 of this disease; and
4 WHEREAS, If diagnosed and treated at an early stage before
5 the cancer spreads outside of the ovary, the treatment is potentially
6 less costly, and the five-year survival rate is higher, at
7 approximately 70 percent. However, fewer than 20 percent of
8 ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed early. An overwhelming 80
9 percent of all ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed at advanced
10 stages; and
11 WHEREAS, Although mortality rates among other cancers have
12 been reduced due to the capabilities of early detection and enhanced

1 treatments, the mortality rates for ovarian cancer have remained
2 high for the past three decades. Unfortunately, women with ovarian
3 cancer do not share the luxury of early detection; this cancer is
4 among the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers; and

5 WHEREAS, Ovarian cancer has been predicted to reach
6 epidemic proportions as the population ages, because advancing
7 age is one of the known risk factors for the development of ovarian
8 cancer. Ovarian cancer primarily occurs in women over 45 years
9 of age; and

10 WHEREAS, The symptoms of ovarian cancer are vague and
11 not well known by the public. While ovarian cancer is the ninth
12 most common cancer among the female population, it is the fifth
13 leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women; and

14 WHEREAS, There are factors that are known to reduce the risk
15 for ovarian cancer and that play an important role in the prevention
16 of the disease; now, therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
18 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
19 month of September of every year as Ovarian Cancer Awareness
20 Month throughout the State of California, and encourages and
21 promotes the efforts of the people and the health care practitioners
22 of the state to increase their awareness of this disease and to
23 educate themselves about its early detection and prevention, the
24 risk factors involved in its development, and the early warning
25 symptoms and signs; and be it further

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