

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 81

Introduced by Assembly Member Skinner

(Coauthors: Senators Alquist, Anderson, Corbett, De León, DeSaulnier, Evans, Fuller, Hancock, Kehoe, Leno, Lieu, Liu, Lowenthal, Negrete McLeod, Padilla, Pavley, Rubio, Runner, Steinberg, and Wolk)

August 23, 2011

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 81, as amended, 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

1 ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed early. An overwhelming 80
2 percent of all ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed at advanced
3 stages; and

4 WHEREAS, Although mortality rates ~~among~~ *for* other cancers
5 have been reduced due to the capabilities of early detection and
6 enhanced treatments, the mortality rates for ovarian cancer have
7 remained high for the past three decades. Unfortunately, women
8 with ovarian cancer do not share the luxury of early detection; this
9 cancer is among the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers; and

10 WHEREAS, Ovarian cancer has been predicted to reach
11 epidemic proportions as the population ages, because advancing
12 age is one of the known risk factors for the development of ovarian
13 cancer. Ovarian cancer primarily occurs in women over 45 years
14 of age; and

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

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

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

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