
Introduced by Senator Strickland

April 28, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 43—Relative to spinal muscular atrophy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 43, as introduced, Strickland. Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month.

This bill would declare August 2011, and each August thereafter, as Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) kills more children
2 than any other genetic disease; and
3 WHEREAS, SMA causes degeneration in voluntary muscle
4 movement for those impacted by the disease, eventually impacting
5 the ability to walk, sit, crawl, stand, breathe, eat, and even swallow;
6 and
7 WHEREAS, One in every 40 people, or nearly 10 million
8 Americans, unknowingly carries the gene responsible for SMA.
9 Few have any known family history; and
10 WHEREAS, SMA is a pan-ethnic disease that does not
11 discriminate based on race, ethnicity, or gender; and
12 WHEREAS, SMA does not impact the mind. Children with
13 SMA are bright, sensitive, and playful in spite of their failing
14 bodies; and
15 WHEREAS, Most children impacted by SMA succumb to the
16 disease before their second birthday; and

1 WHEREAS, There is currently no treatment and no cure for
2 SMA, but the National Institutes of Health (NIH) selected SMA
3 as the disease closest to treatment of more than 600 neurological
4 disorders; and

5 WHEREAS, The nation's leading researchers signed a statement
6 stressing that, with adequate resources, a viable treatment or cure
7 is attainable in as little as five years; and

8 WHEREAS, SMA research is considered a "model" approach,
9 with the potential of benefiting millions of people impacted by
10 other diseases, including ALS/Lou Gehrig's disease, Alzheimer's,
11 Parkinson's, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Fragile X, and Tay
12 Sachs, among others; and

13 WHEREAS, Increased awareness of SMA will lead to increased
14 knowledge and increased support for both disease research and
15 families affected by the disease, hopefully leading to a cure; and

16 WHEREAS, August has been declared as National Spinal
17 Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month in order to raise awareness
18 and help promote research into this devastating disease; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
21 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature declares the month of
22 August 2011, and each month of August thereafter, Spinal
23 Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month; and be it further

24 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
25 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.