

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 26

Introduced by Assembly Member Wilk

February 26, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 26—Relative to Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 26, as introduced, Wilk. Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. This measure would designate the month of March 2013 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 14,115
3 new cases and 5,135 deaths expected in 2013; 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, survival is 94 percent; and
8 WHEREAS, There were approximately one 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 only show up 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

1 WHEREAS, According to the United States Preventative
2 Services Task Force, access to appropriate use of colorectal cancer
3 screening tests, such as colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, and fecal
4 occult blood test (FOBT)/fecal immunochemical test (FIT), could
5 reduce death rates of colon cancer up to 66 percent; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society, in
7 2010, only about 43 percent of colorectal cancers were diagnosed
8 at an early, more treatable and curable stage; and

9 WHEREAS, The uninsured, underinsured, and underserved are
10 least likely to get screening for colorectal cancer, which means
11 they are more likely to be diagnosed at a late stage when chances
12 of survival drop to 13 percent; and

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

16 WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest colorectal
17 cancer incidence and mortality rates of all racial groups in this
18 country; and

19 WHEREAS, In California, colorectal cancer is the most common
20 cancer among Korean men, the second most common cancer among
21 Hispanic and Japanese men, and the second most common cancer
22 among Chinese, Filipino, Hispanic, Japanese, Korean, Laotian,
23 South Asian, and Kampuchean women; and

24 WHEREAS, The California Colorectal Cancer Coalition (C4)
25 is a nonprofit organization established to increase colorectal cancer
26 screening rates in an effort to decrease mortality associated with
27 the disease, and implement strategies to reduce disparities in
28 colorectal cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment among
29 underserved populations in California; and

30 WHEREAS, The California Colorectal Cancer Coalition (C4)
31 encourages Californians to discuss the colorectal cancer screening
32 test that is best for them with their doctors and believes that the
33 best test is the one you have done; now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
35 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the months of
36 March 2013 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; and be it
37 further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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