

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 2014  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2014  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2014  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 11, 2013  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 4, 2013  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 5**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Gomez**

January 17, 2013

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 5, as amended, Gomez. National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week.

This measure would designate the week of April 20 to 26, 2014, inclusive, as National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week, encourage ~~the promotion of~~ *continued research into* policies and programs that seek to reduce cancer disparities and, as a result, improve cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and followup care for all Californians, and urge the President and the Congress of the United States to recognize National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week
- 2 has been observed across the country each year since 1987 in an

1 effort to bring attention to the disparities of cancer among  
2 medically underserved populations; and

3 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society is participating in  
4 National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week to highlight the  
5 disparities in cancer burdens and to encourage public and private  
6 sector commitments in helping eliminate these disparities; and

7 WHEREAS, California is the most populous and ethnically and  
8 culturally diverse state in the country, and thus, is in a position to  
9 provide leadership for the nation to address the reduction of the  
10 incidence of cancer among all races, ethnicities, and genders; and

11 WHEREAS, In California, disparities exist in knowledge about  
12 cancer, cancer survival, and access to early detection, high-quality  
13 treatment, health care coverage, and health care. Social inequities  
14 also exist, including differences in occupational hazards,  
15 environmental exposures to pollution and other toxins, access to  
16 education, nutrition, physical activity, safe neighborhoods, healthy  
17 food options, and other factors that contribute to an increased or  
18 reduced risk of cancer; and

19 WHEREAS, The risk of developing and dying from cancer  
20 varies considerably among different cultural populations in  
21 California. The medically underserved are often diagnosed at later  
22 stages, and with a higher incidence of cancers with higher  
23 mortality, such as lung cancer, and are more likely to receive  
24 delayed health care; and

25 WHEREAS, Cancer is the leading cause of death among Latinos,  
26 Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders, and is the second leading  
27 cause of death for most other Californians; and

28 WHEREAS, In California, African American males have the  
29 highest overall cancer incidence and mortality rates. African  
30 American women are more likely to die of breast cancer, although  
31 non-Hispanic white women are the most likely to be diagnosed  
32 with the disease. African Americans have substantially higher rates  
33 of cancers of the stomach, small intestine, liver, and larynx,  
34 myeloma, and Kaposi's sarcoma than non-Hispanic whites. African  
35 American men are at especially high risk for prostate cancer, more  
36 than any other racial and ethnic group; and

37 WHEREAS, In California, lung cancer is the most common  
38 cancer among Laotian and Vietnamese men, while prostate cancer  
39 is the most common cancer for men in most other ethnic groups.  
40 Colorectal cancer is the most common cancer among Kampuchean

1 and Korean men. Despite an overall statewide decline in colorectal  
2 cancer rates from 1988–2008, incidence sharply increased among  
3 Koreans and Vietnamese. Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and  
4 Latinos have substantially higher rates of liver and stomach cancer  
5 than other groups. Vietnamese women have much higher rates of  
6 cervical cancer than non-Hispanic white women. Asian Americans  
7 have among the lowest rates of screening for breast, cervical, and  
8 colorectal cancers. There remains a lack of data about factors  
9 related to cancer, cancer control, and effective interventions among  
10 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and

11 WHEREAS, In California, Latinos have substantially higher  
12 rates of stomach and liver cancers than other Californians. Latinos  
13 have higher rates of acute lymphocytic leukemia and cervical  
14 cancer than non-Hispanic whites. Latinos have the highest  
15 likelihood of being medically uninsured, which can create serious  
16 barriers to screenings, early detection, and treatment. Latino women  
17 have the highest risk of developing cervical cancer, significantly  
18 higher, than non-Hispanic white women, African American women,  
19 Asian American women, and Pacific Islander women; and

20 WHEREAS, ~~Members~~ *According to the American Cancer*  
21 *Society, members* of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender  
22 community are at greater risk for cancer, ~~face~~ *have faced* specific  
23 challenges accessing quality health ~~care because of insurance~~  
24 ~~policies that fail to cover same-sex partners,~~ *care*, and may hesitate  
25 to access health care because of previous discrimination in health  
26 care settings. Lesbians have fewer mammograms, pelvic  
27 examinations, and Pap smear tests than heterosexual women. There  
28 remains a lack of data about factors related to cancer, cancer  
29 control, and effective interventions in the lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
30 and transgender community; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved, by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
32 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature urges the President and  
33 the Congress of the United States to recognize “National  
34 Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week”; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares the week of April 20 to  
36 26, 2014, inclusive, as “National Multicultural Cancer Awareness  
37 Week,” within the State of California, and encourages ~~the~~  
38 ~~promotion of~~ *continued research into* policies and programs that  
39 seek to reduce cancer disparities and, as a result, improve cancer

1 prevention, detection, treatment, and followup care for all  
2 Californians; and be it further  
3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
4 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
5 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
6 Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative  
7 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the  
8 author for appropriate distribution.

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