

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 104

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 124

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 104—Relative to Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 25, 2014.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 104, Huff. Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.

This measure would declare the 3rd week of September 2014, and the 3rd week of September in each subsequent year, as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.

WHEREAS, Few people know of mitochondrial disease, yet every 30 minutes a child is born who will develop this disease by 10 years of age; and

WHEREAS, There is no cure for mitochondrial disease; and

WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease is often misdiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease occurs when mitochondria inside of cells, responsible for creating more than 90 percent of the energy needed by the body to sustain life and support growth, fail to carry out their primary functions; and

WHEREAS, When mitochondria fail, less and less energy is generated within the cell; and

WHEREAS, If this process is repeated throughout the body, whole systems begin to fail, and the life of the person in whom this is happening is severely compromised; and

WHEREAS, The disease primarily affects children; and

WHEREAS, Diseases of the mitochondria appear to cause the most damage to cells of the brain, heart, liver, skeletal muscles, kidneys, and the endocrine and respiratory systems; and

WHEREAS, Common symptoms include muscle weakness and pain, gastrointestinal disorders, poor growth, cardiac disease, liver disease, diabetes, respiratory problems, seizures, visual and hearing problems, and susceptibility to infection; and

WHEREAS, Because so little is known about the disease, there are only a few hospitals in the world that offer treatment, causing affected families to travel regularly or even relocate to receive treatment; and

WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease is progressive, likely terminal, and requires a high level of care and extremely expensive medical treatment that often exceeds covered insurance benefits, creating great financial burdens on affected families; and

WHEREAS, The third week of September is observed globally as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature does hereby proclaim the third week of September 2014, and the third week of September each subsequent year, as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week; and be it further

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