

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 57**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Achadjian**  
(Coauthor: Senator Monning)

April 20, 2015

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 57—Relative to Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 57, as introduced, Achadjian. Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.  
This measure would proclaim May 19, 2015, as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Liver cancer and liver disease related to hepatitis  
2 B and C are two of the leading killers in California; and  
3 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is the most prevalent bloodborne  
4 disease in the United States and in California; and  
5 WHEREAS, Early detection of hepatitis B and C infections  
6 promotes effective management or treatment of these infections,  
7 preventing disability, loss of productivity and income, and allowing  
8 people to live full, satisfying, and productive lives; and  
9 WHEREAS, An undetected and untreated hepatitis B or C  
10 infection can lead to disability or death; and  
11 WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 750,000 Californians  
12 with chronic hepatitis C infection do not know they are infected,  
13 and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer,  
14 or liver failure; and

1 WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 350,000 California  
2 residents with hepatitis B infection do not know they are infected,  
3 and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer,  
4 or liver failure; and

5 WHEREAS, Untreated hepatitis B and C infections are the  
6 leading causes of liver failure requiring liver transplant; and

7 WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Disease Control and  
8 Prevention released updated guidelines calling for baby boomers  
9 – everyone born between 1945 and 1965 – to receive a one-time  
10 hepatitis C test, which would save over 100,000 lives; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2013, the United States Preventive Services  
12 Task Force (USPSTF) issued a Grade B rating for screening for  
13 hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in persons at high risk for  
14 infection and adults born between 1945 and 1965; and

15 WHEREAS, Baby boomers make up 30 percent of California's  
16 adult population, and African American baby boomers are twice  
17 as likely to have hepatitis C as other baby boomers; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2009, the USPSTF issued a Grade A rating for  
19 screening pregnant women for the hepatitis B virus (HBV)  
20 infection during their first prenatal visit; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2014, the USPSTF issued a Grade B rating for  
22 screening people born in countries where hepatitis B is common,  
23 United States-born people who were not vaccinated against  
24 hepatitis B when they were babies and whose parents come from  
25 countries where hepatitis B is common, and other people at risk  
26 for hepatitis B; and

27 WHEREAS, There is a vaccine for the prevention of hepatitis  
28 B – the first proven, low-cost vaccination against any form of  
29 cancer made available to Americans; and

30 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B is most prevalent among people of  
31 Asian and Pacific Islander descent, and one-third of Americans of  
32 Asian and Pacific Islander descent live in California; and

33 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B-related and hepatitis C-related  
34 hospitalization charges totaled \$2.3 billion in 2010 in California,  
35 mostly paid for by tax-supported public health insurers; and

36 WHEREAS, New medications can cure hepatitis C in over 90  
37 percent of people who are linked to and retained in care and  
38 treatment; and

39 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B can be treated effectively with proper  
40 medical management and may be curable in the near future; and

1 WHEREAS, The Legislature will continue to work to increase  
2 the affordability of, and access to, care, treatment, and cures for  
3 hepatitis; and

4 WHEREAS, Hepatitis awareness education campaigns and  
5 accessible screening for hepatitis B and C, along with appropriate  
6 treatment, can reduce the damage from hepatitis B and C viral  
7 infection to individuals and to our community, financially, as well  
8 as physically and emotionally; now, therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
10 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims May  
11 19, 2015, as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day; and be it further

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