

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 116

Introduced by Assembly Member McCarty

January 12, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 116—Relative to National Kidney Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 116, as introduced, McCarty. National Kidney Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of March 2016, and each year thereafter, as National Kidney Month, would express the Legislature's support of programs that work to, among other things, increase awareness of kidney disease, and would encourage health care providers to engage in an aggressive program for the treatment of diabetes and high blood pressure.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Month of March is National Kidney Month,
2 and March 10, 2016, is World Kidney Day; and
3 WHEREAS, Approximately 50 years ago, kidney failure was
4 a death sentence; and
5 WHEREAS, In 1972, the United States Congress developed the
6 Medicare End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) program. In doing so,
7 Congress ensured that regardless of age or income, any American
8 would have access to life-saving dialysis care; and
9 WHEREAS, One in 10 adults in the United States are living
10 with kidney disease; the leading causes are diabetes, high blood
11 pressure, and a family history of chronic kidney disease (CKD);
12 and

1 WHEREAS, Kidney disease is the ninth leading cause of death
2 in the United States. Once diagnosed, an individual with kidney
3 failure must either get a kidney transplant or receive dialysis
4 treatment at least three times per week, for three to four hours per
5 treatment, to live; and

6 WHEREAS, CKD is a progressive disease that may lead to
7 premature death or kidney failure; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 26 million Americans have CKD, but
9 most are unaware that they have it, and another 73 million are at
10 risk. Many of them only discover that they have kidney failure,
11 also known as end-stage renal disease (ESRD), when they “crash”
12 in a hospital emergency room after fainting or suffering from
13 extreme dizziness; and

14 WHEREAS, Nearly 616,000 Americans have ESRD, and more
15 than 430,000 rely on life-sustaining dialysis; and

16 WHEREAS, The only treatment options for kidney failure are
17 a kidney transplant or dialysis; and

18 WHEREAS, More than 95,000 individuals are waiting for
19 kidney transplants; and

20 WHEREAS, Since 2000, the number of patients who have been
21 diagnosed with kidney failure has increased by 57 percent; and

22 WHEREAS, According to statistics from the federal Centers
23 for Disease Control and Prevention, one in three people with
24 diabetes has kidney disease; one in five adults with high blood
25 pressure has chronic kidney disease; African Americans are about
26 three and a half times more likely to develop kidney failure than
27 Caucasians; Latinos are one and a half times more likely to develop
28 kidney failure than non-Latinos; and Asian and Pacific Islander
29 Americans are twice as likely to develop kidney failure as
30 Caucasians; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
32 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of
33 March 2016, and each year thereafter, as National Kidney Month
34 in California; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Legislature supports programs to increase
36 awareness of kidney disease, work to educate Californians about
37 healthy eating and drinking habits, and encourage individuals to
38 seek early screening and treatment of diabetes and high blood
39 pressure; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages health care providers,
2 as they detect and treat diabetes and high blood pressure, to engage
3 in an aggressive program with their patients that includes a
4 treatment regimen that meets and exceeds minimum treatment
5 guidelines; and be it further
6 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
7 of the resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O