

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 161

Introduced by Assembly Member Waldron

March 30, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 161—Relative to Bladder Cancer Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 161, as introduced, Waldron. Bladder Cancer Awareness Month. This measure would proclaim the month of May 2016 as Bladder Cancer Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Five hundred thousand families in the United States
2 live with bladder cancer; and
3 WHEREAS, More than 74,000 people in the United States are
4 expected to be diagnosed with bladder cancer and 16,000 will die
5 due to the disease in 2016 alone; and
6 WHEREAS, Approximately 7,150 people will be newly
7 diagnosed with bladder cancer in California this year and more
8 than 1,500 Californians are expected to die of the disease; and
9 WHEREAS, Bladder cancer affects adults of all ages and
10 backgrounds and is the fifth most common nonskin cancer in the
11 United States, exceeded only by breast, lung, prostate, and colon
12 cancers, yet knowledge of the frequency and severity of bladder
13 cancer is minimal; and
14 WHEREAS, Bladder cancer is known as one of the most
15 expensive cancers to treat on a per patient basis and has a

1 recurrence rate of approximately 50 to 80 percent, requiring
2 lifelong surveillance; and

3 WHEREAS, Bladder cancer symptoms, such as blood in the
4 urine, are easily recognized, but many people are unaware of the
5 threat of bladder cancer, often prolonging the time to diagnosis;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, If diagnosed early, bladder cancer is treatable; and

8 WHEREAS, Military veterans are twice as likely as nonveterans
9 to be diagnosed with bladder cancer; and

10 WHEREAS, Women are often diagnosed at a later stage in the
11 development of bladder cancer, and when diagnosed at the same
12 stage as men, women have a worse prognosis; and

13 WHEREAS, Smoking is the most well-established risk factor
14 for bladder cancer, with the incidence of the disease three to four
15 times greater in smokers than in nonsmokers; and

16 WHEREAS, If diagnosis and treatment are delayed, the life
17 expectancy of an individual with bladder cancer decreases; and

18 WHEREAS, The quality of life of a person with bladder cancer
19 will depend on future treatment and diagnostic developments,
20 which will rely on research advancements; and

21 WHEREAS, There have been no new treatments approved by
22 the federal Food and Drug Administration for bladder cancer in
23 over 10 years; and

24 WHEREAS, Research advancements for bladder cancer are
25 limited by lack of awareness about the disease within the medical
26 community and general public; and

27 WHEREAS, Increased awareness will promote early diagnosis
28 and increase the chances of survival; and

29 WHEREAS, Increased awareness will bolster public support of
30 treatment of the disease and thus increase funding for innovative
31 research and the development of new treatment options and
32 diagnostic tools; and

33 WHEREAS, Traditionally, in May of each year, survivors,
34 caregivers, and loved ones walk together throughout the United
35 States to raise awareness of bladder cancer; and

36 WHEREAS, The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network and its
37 community of patients, caregivers, and specialists seek to foster a
38 community of hope and support, to fund and conduct research for
39 innovative treatments and diagnostic tools, and to increase public

1 awareness and understanding of bladder cancer; now, therefore,
2 be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
5 month of May 2016 as Bladder Cancer Awareness Month; and be
6 it further

7 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon the people of
8 California, interested groups, and affected persons to promote
9 awareness of bladder cancer and to foster understanding of the
10 impact of the disease on patients and their families and caregivers,
11 to take an active role in the fight to end bladder cancer, and to
12 observe Bladder Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate
13 ceremonies and activities; and be it further

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