

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 172

**Introduced by Assembly Member Hadley
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Beth Gaines)**

April 18, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 172—Relative to Bone Marrow Donation Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 172, as introduced, Hadley. Bone Marrow Donation Awareness Month.

This measure would designate the month of May 2016 as Bone Marrow Donation Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Since 1987, when the United States Congress
2 authorized the establishment of a national registry of volunteer
3 bone marrow donors, the National Marrow Donor Program
4 (NMDP), now publicly known as Be The Match, has facilitated
5 more than 74,000 marrow and umbilical cord blood transplants;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Be The Match states that the number of transplants
8 facilitated through the national Be The Match Registry is “only a
9 fraction of the people who can benefit”; and

10 WHEREAS, One of the leading hurdles cited in a report by the
11 Government Accountability Office is locating a suitably matched,
12 unrelated donor, a process that is often difficult, time-consuming,
13 and costly; and

1 WHEREAS, Seventy percent of patients do not have a donor
2 in their family and rely upon the national registry to find a match;
3 and
4 WHEREAS, California ranks number one in the nation for
5 patients searching for a match; and
6 WHEREAS, There is a need to enhance the understanding of
7 the importance of bone marrow donation, and to encourage
8 Californians to participate in bone marrow donation drives; and
9 WHEREAS, The most prevalent problem with respect to bone
10 marrow donation is the need for racially and ethnically diverse
11 donors because of complex tissue types; and
12 WHEREAS, Of the more than 13.5 million potential donors on
13 the United States' Be The Match Registry, 40 percent are donors
14 from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds; and
15 WHEREAS, There is a need to engage the public to increase
16 diversity in the registry, with the goal of finding a matching donor
17 for all patients to receive the transplant they need, when they need
18 it; and
19 WHEREAS, Be The Match operates the world's largest and
20 most diverse registry of potential bone marrow donors; and
21 WHEREAS, The bone marrow registration process is simple;
22 it only takes a few minutes and requires a cheek swab; now,
23 therefore, be it
24 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the month of
26 May 2016 as Bone Marrow Donation Awareness Month; and be
27 it further
28 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
29 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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