

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 76

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 128

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 76—Relative to breast cancer.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 23, 1997.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 76, Wayne. Breast Cancer.

This measure would designate the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and would designate Monday, October 20, 1997, as Breast Exam and Mammography Awareness Day. The measure would emphasize that the public education efforts conducted during the month of October should be part of an ongoing, year round effort to raise public awareness across the state and would recognize that the only effective means of protecting women against breast cancer is to make breast cancer research a priority and fund critically needed research into the cause, cure, and prevention of breast cancer.

WHEREAS, Breast cancer is an epidemic that will strike one out of eight American women and one out of 10 California women in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women and is second only to lung cancer as the leading cause of cancer deaths among women, both nationally, and in California; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, approximately 46,000 women will die of breast cancer and some 180,000 new cases will be diagnosed in 1997; and

WHEREAS, In the State of California, approximately 5,000 women will die of breast cancer and nearly 20,000 new cases will be diagnosed in 1997; and

WHEREAS, In California, the highest incidence of breast cancer is found in Anglo women, the highest mortality rate occurs among African-American women, and the greatest percentage of late-stage diagnosis occurs among Latino and African-American women; and

WHEREAS, Breast cancer is increasingly being diagnosed among women in their 30's and 40's; and

WHEREAS, More than 70 percent of women with breast cancer exhibit none of the known risk factors; and

WHEREAS, Although evidence is emerging about a link between environmental factors and breast cancer, not enough research is being funded to pursue this link; and

WHEREAS, Despite over 25 years of the “war on cancer,” there is still no known cause, cure, or method of preventing breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, While mammography remains an important method for breast cancer detection, it often fails to identify the disease effectively, particularly among women in their 20’s, 30’s, and 40’s; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the incalculable emotional costs to women and their families, the direct and indirect economic costs of breast cancer are estimated at \$8 billion a year nationally in additional health care services and lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, Historically, breast cancer research has been grossly underfunded at the federal level, topping a decade of erosion in federal appropriations in the 1980’s for all cancer research; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Cancer Institute, the incidence of breast cancer in the United States increased 32 percent between 1982 and 1989; and

WHEREAS, The United States government during the same period of time reportedly spent only \$77 million annually researching the prevention of breast cancer, while it spent \$648 million annually to prevent heart disease. Breast cancer accounts for 17 percent of all cancers in this country; but only 5 percent of the research budget of the National Cancer Institute was designated for research on breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, By the following decade, the 104th Congress of 1995–96 appropriated almost \$500 million for federal breast cancer research. However, much more is needed to fund research directed at finding a cure and means of preventing breast cancer adequately; and

WHEREAS, Californians now have a unique opportunity to support breast cancer research in this state through the California Breast Cancer Research Fund Act, which allows individuals to make a voluntary contribution to support research when filing state income tax returns; and

WHEREAS, Heightened public awareness and education about breast cancer are crucial to the national effort to eradicate this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, Prominent organizations like the National Breast Cancer Coalition focus on three important goals to achieve such a worthy purpose; (1) increasing appropriations for high quality, peer-reviewed research, and working within the scientific community to focus research on prevention and finding a cure, (2) increasing access for all women to high quality treatment and care and to breast cancer clinical trials, and (3) increasing the influence of women living with breast cancer and other breast cancer activists in the decisionmaking that impacts all issues surrounding breast cancer; and



WHEREAS, Such national organizations have precipitated the development of a National Action Plan on breast cancer that will be a collaboration of government, science, private industry, and consumers; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of all women, men, and families to join together to promote greater awareness about a disease that affects all Californians, the need for true early detection and adequate treatment options, and the urgency of finding a cure; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the State of California, in order to heighten public awareness about breast cancer, including the need to redouble efforts to prevent and cure this disease, declares the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month; and be it further

*Resolved,* The Legislature of the State of California, in order to recognize that, to date, breast exam and mammography are still the primary methods of breast cancer detection available to women, and that, therefore, all women should perform monthly breast self-exams, women over 50 years of age should have regularly scheduled mammograms every year, and women 40 to 49 years of age, inclusive, should consult about mammograms with their health care provider, declares Monday October 20, 1997, as Breast Exam and Mammography Awareness Day; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California emphasizes that the public education efforts conducted during the month of October should be part of an ongoing, year-round effort to raise public awareness across the state, and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California recognizes that while early detection through routine mammograms, clinical exams, and breast self-exams are important, the only effective means of protecting women against breast cancer is to make breast cancer research a priority and fund critically needed research into the cause, cure, and prevention of breast cancer; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a suitably prepared copy of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

