

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 145

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 123

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 145—Relative to Diabetes Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 5, 2000.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 145, Cardenas. Diabetes Awareness Month.

This measure would designate November 2000 as Diabetes Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Diabetes is a disease in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin, a hormone that is needed to convert sugar, starches, and other food into energy needed for daily life; diabetes is a chronic disease that has no cure; and

WHEREAS, There are two major types of diabetes; Type I diabetes is an autoimmune disease, in which the body does not produce any insulin, most often occurring in children and young adults; people with Type I diabetes must take daily insulin injections to stay alive; and

WHEREAS, Type II diabetes is a metabolic disorder resulting from the body's inability to make enough, or properly use, insulin; it is the most common form of the disease; Type II diabetes accounts for 90 to 95 percent of diabetes and is nearing epidemic proportions due to an increase in the number of older Americans and lifestyle changes; Type II diabetes usually occurs after 45 years of age; often people with Type II diabetes have no symptoms;

WHEREAS, Diabetes is the leading cause of blindness, amputations, and kidney failure; diabetes is the leading cause of blindness in adults 25 to 74 years of age; diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States; people with diabetes are twice as likely to have a heart attack or stroke; and

WHEREAS, Diabetes is one of the most prevalent chronic diseases affecting older people, women, and people of color; and

WHEREAS, Latinos are almost twice as likely to have Type II diabetes than non-Hispanic Whites; diabetes affects 1.2 million of the Mexican American population; approximately 24 percent of Mexican Americans, 16 percent of Cuban Americans, and 26 percent of Puerto Ricans between 45 to 74 years of age have diabetes; and

WHEREAS, Mexican Americans are 4.5 to 6.6 times more likely to suffer from end stage renal disease among people with diabetes; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans are 1.7 times as likely to have Type II diabetes than non-Hispanic Whites; diabetes affects 2.3 million

African-Americans; of African-Americans between 65 and 74 years of age, 25 percent have diabetes; one in four African-American women over 55 years of age have diabetes; and

WHEREAS, The prevalence of Type II diabetes in Native Americans is 12.2 percent versus 5.2 percent of the general population; in some tribes, 50 percent of the population has diabetes; and

WHEREAS, There is a higher incidence of Type I diabetes in Whites than any other racial group; and

WHEREAS, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders are at an increased risk of contracting diabetes; within the Asian-American and Pacific Islander population, some groups are twice as likely to have diabetes than non-Hispanic Whites; and

WHEREAS, Nationwide, there are 15.7 million people who have diabetes; each day approximately 2,200 people are diagnosed with diabetes; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, while an estimated 10.3 million have been diagnosed, 5.4 million people are not aware that they have the disease; for every two people with diagnosed diabetes, there is another person who has diabetes but does not know it; approximately 7.5 million of all men, and 8.1 million of all women in the United States have diabetes, however, more than one-third of these do not know it; and

WHEREAS, Diabetes is a leading health problem in California with an estimated two million residents having the disease; California has one of the highest rates of diabetes in the nation; each year diabetes and diabetes related illnesses, such as amputations, loss of eyesight, and even death affect the lives of millions of Californians; and

WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Services has found that without significant improvements in the prevention, detection, and control of diabetes, the number of people with diabetes and the costs associated with it will grow at an unprecedented rate; and

WHEREAS, The keys to reducing the incidence of and complications associated with diabetes are education, early detection, and proper treatment; the earlier a person is diagnosed with diabetes and receives treatment, the better the person's chances are for avoiding diabetes complications; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of all women, men, and families to join together to promote greater awareness, the need for early detection, and education about a disease that affects all Californians; 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 diabetes, declares November 2000 as Diabetes Awareness Month and further emphasizes that the public education efforts conducted during



November 2000 should be part of an ongoing, year-round effort to raise public awareness throughout the state.

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