

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 141

Introduced by Assembly Members Fletcher and Blakeslee

March 3, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 141—Relative to Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 141, as introduced, Fletcher. Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

This measure would declare May 19, 2010, to be Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Liver cancer and liver disease related to hepatitis
2 B and C are two of the leading killers in California; and
3 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is the most prevalent blood-borne
4 disease in the United States and in California; and
5 WHEREAS, Early detection of hepatitis B or C infection
6 promotes effective management or treatment of these infections,
7 preventing disability, loss of productivity and income, and allowing
8 people to live full, satisfying, and productive lives; and
9 WHEREAS, Undetected and untreated hepatitis B or C infection
10 can lead to disability or death; and
11 WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 500,000 Californians
12 with chronic hepatitis C infection do not know they are infected,
13 and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer,
14 or liver failure; and
15 WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 125,000 California
16 residents with hepatitis B infection do not know they are infected,

1 and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer,
2 or liver failure; and

3 WHEREAS, Untreated hepatitis B and C are the leading causes
4 of liver failure requiring liver transplant; and

5 WHEREAS, There is a vaccine for the prevention of hepatitis
6 B, the first proven, low-cost vaccination against any form of cancer
7 made available to Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, The cost of hospitalizations for liver cancer and
9 liver disease reached \$2 billion in California in 2007, mostly paid
10 for by tax-supported public health insurers; and

11 WHEREAS, Hepatitis awareness education campaigns and
12 accessible screening for hepatitis B and C, along with appropriate
13 treatment, can reduce the damage from hepatitis B and C viral
14 infection to individuals and to our community, financially, as well
15 as physically and emotionally; now, therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
17 *thereof concurring*, That May 19, 2010, is hereby proclaimed by
18 the Legislature as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day; and be it further

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