

Introduced by Senator Steinberg
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Bass)

March 9, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22—Relative to Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 22, as introduced, Steinberg. Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

This measure would designate March 2009, as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of
- 2 cancer deaths in both men and women in California, with 14,250
- 3 new cases and 5,140 deaths expected in 2009; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is treatable, curable, and in many
- 5 cases, completely preventable; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is known as a silent killer because
- 7 symptoms show up only in latest stages of the disease; and
- 8 WHEREAS, With proper screening, colorectal cancer can be
- 9 prevented or, if found early, it can be treated and cured; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Currently, only about 40 percent of the eligible
- 11 population gets screened; and
- 12 WHEREAS, According to the Institute of Medicine, access to
- 13 appropriate use of colorectal cancer screening tests, such as
- 14 colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, and fecal occult blood test, could
- 15 reduce death rates of colon cancer up to 80 percent; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society, in
2 2004, only about 44 percent of colorectal cancers were diagnosed
3 at an early, more treatable and curable stage; and

4 WHEREAS, The uninsured, underinsured and underserved are
5 least likely to get screening and treatment for colorectal cancer,
6 which means that they are more likely to be diagnosed at a late
7 stage when chances of survival drop to 9 percent; and

8 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer screening is one of the most
9 cost-effective prevention measures in health care, more
10 cost-effective than breast cancer screening; and

11 WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest colorectal
12 cancer incidence and mortality rates of all racial groups in this
13 country; and

14 WHEREAS, Early detection rates among African Americans
15 in California are low; and

16 WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos in California have lower
17 rates of screening for colorectal cancer, and lower rates of early
18 detection of the disease; and

19 WHEREAS, In California, colorectal cancer is the most common
20 cancer among Korean men, the second most common cancer among
21 Korean women, and the second most common cancer among
22 Japanese women and women, and only 40 percent of colorectal
23 cancer in Asians and Pacific Islanders is caught at an early stage;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, The California Colorectal Cancer Coalition (C4)
26 is a nonprofit organization established to increase colorectal cancer
27 screening rates in an effort to decrease mortality associated with
28 the disease, and implement strategies to reduce disparities in
29 colorectal cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment among
30 populations in California; and

31 WHEREAS, C4 encourages Californians to discuss the
32 colorectal cancer screening test that is best for them with their
33 doctors and believes that the best test is the one you can get done;
34 now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
36 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates March
37 2009, as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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