

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 31

Adopted in Senate May 14, 2009

Secretary of the Senate

Adopted in Assembly June 15, 2009

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This resolution was received by the Secretary of State this
____ day of _____, 2009, at ____ o'clock ____M.

Deputy Secretary of State

RESOLUTION CHAPTER _____

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 31—Relative to Scleroderma Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 31, Runner. Scleroderma Awareness Month.

This measure would declare June 2009 as Scleroderma Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Scleroderma is a chronic, disabling autoimmune disease in which the body's soft tissues suffer from an overproduction of collagen; and

WHEREAS, Scleroderma can affect many parts of the body including skin, internal organs, and blood vessels; and

WHEREAS, Scleroderma sufferers often experience damage to the heart, lungs, kidneys, and the gastrointestinal system; and

WHEREAS, Many sufferers develop pulmonary hypertension as a result of constriction of the blood vessels; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are more susceptible to systemic scleroderma; and

WHEREAS, Researchers have yet to identify the exact cause or causes of scleroderma; and

WHEREAS, Researchers have found links between scleroderma and rheumatic disease; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 300,000 Americans suffer from scleroderma, and 80 percent of those are women; and

WHEREAS, The estimated total economic impact of scleroderma treatment is estimated to be in excess of \$1.5 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, The morbidity cost associated with scleroderma is an estimated \$819,000,000 annually; and

WHEREAS, The direct cost of treatment for scleroderma is estimated to be \$462,000,000 annually; and

WHEREAS, There is a significant need for further research focusing on the epidemiology of scleroderma to increase understanding of the causes of the disease and its treatment; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has recognized the need to raise awareness of the impact of scleroderma on public health and has designated a National Scleroderma Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, California should also designate a month as Scleroderma Awareness Month to help educate the public about autoimmune diseases and the need for increased research, funding, and effective treatments for those diseases; and

WHEREAS, The designation of such a month would recognize the efforts of health care providers, patients, and scleroderma advocacy organizations to increase awareness of scleroderma and of the need for increased research on scleroderma; and

WHEREAS, June 2009 would be an appropriate month to designate as Scleroderma Awareness Month; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims the month of June 2009 as Scleroderma Awareness Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of the resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

Attest:

Secretary of State