
Introduced by Senator Steinberg

April 28, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 39—Relative to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 39, as introduced, Steinberg. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of May 2009 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month in California, and would encourage continued research in order to find treatments and eventually a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and care and support for patients and families.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly
- 2 known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive and fatal
- 3 neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and
- 4 spinal cord; and
- 5 WHEREAS, When motor neurons die, the ability of the brain
- 6 to initiate and control muscle movement is lost and never regained;
- 7 and
- 8 WHEREAS, As ALS progresses, patients lose the ability to
- 9 walk, eat, speak, move, and breathe and require 24-hour,
- 10 seven-day-a-week care; and
- 11 WHEREAS, ALS does not usually affect a patient's mental
- 12 capacity, thus resulting in persons with ALS who are alert and
- 13 aware while being trapped in their bodies; and

1 WHEREAS, ALS is usually diagnosed between 40 and 70 years
2 of age, with the peak age of onset being around 56 years of age;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Every 90 minutes someone in the United States is
5 diagnosed with ALS and every 90 minutes someone else dies of
6 ALS; and

7 WHEREAS, ALS knows no boundaries and can strike anyone,
8 resulting in all citizens being at risk of having ALS; and

9 WHEREAS, American veterans have a higher incidence of ALS
10 than the general population, and Gulf War veterans, in particular,
11 have twice the incidence of ALS compared to the general
12 population; and

13 WHEREAS, Eighty-five percent of patients diagnosed with
14 ALS survive only two to five years from the time of first noticing
15 muscle weakness; and

16 WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, prevention, or cure; and

17 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month
18 increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances
19 and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has, not only on
20 patients, but on patients' families as well, and recognizes the need
21 for ALS research and for quality treatment, care, and support of
22 patients and families living with ALS; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
24 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
25 hereby proclaims the month of May 2009 as Amyotrophic Lateral
26 Sclerosis Awareness Month in California; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages continued research
28 in order to find treatments and eventually a cure for amyotrophic
29 lateral sclerosis and care and support for patients and families; and
30 be it further

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

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