
Introduced by Senator Lowenthal
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Torlakson)
(Coauthors: Senators Ashburn and Maldonado)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Ma)

April 20, 2009

Senate Joint Resolution No. 7—Relative to pancreatic cancer.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 7, as introduced, Lowenthal. Pancreatic cancer.

This measure would urge the President and the Congress of the United States to expand federally funded research efforts aimed at developing a reliable means of detecting pancreatic cancer in its early stages.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Approximately 38,000 Americans, including an
2 estimated 3,625 Californians, will be diagnosed with pancreatic
3 cancer this year; and
4 WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of pancreatic cancer patients
5 die within the first year of their diagnosis, and 95 percent die within
6 five years, making pancreatic cancer the deadliest of any cancer;
7 and
8 WHEREAS, Pancreatic cancer is the fourth most common cause
9 of cancer death in the United States, with an estimated 3,380
10 Californians expected to die from pancreatic cancer in 2009; and
11 WHEREAS, There has been no significant improvement in
12 pancreatic cancer survival rates in over 30 years, and pancreatic
13 cancer research is still in the earliest scientific stages; and
14 WHEREAS, There are no early detection methods and minimal
15 treatment options for pancreatic cancer; and

1 WHEREAS, The incidence rate of pancreatic cancer is 40 to 50
2 percent higher in African Americans than in other ethnic groups,
3 with Jews of Ashkenazi descent also at an increased genetic risk;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Pancreatic cancer has struck such notable figures
6 as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Patrick Swayze, Dr. Randy Pausch,
7 and Luciano Pavarotti; and

8 WHEREAS, Pancreatic cancer research constitutes less than 2
9 percent of the National Cancer Institute's federal research funding,
10 a figure far too low given the severity of the disease, its mortality
11 rate, and how little is known about how to arrest it; and

12 WHEREAS, There is a critical need to support research that
13 identifies new methods of detecting and treating pancreatic cancer;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, H.R. 745 was introduced in the United States House
16 of Representatives by California Congresswoman Anna Eshoo to
17 require the establishment of a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative and an
18 Interdisciplinary Pancreatic Cancer Coordinating Committee to,
19 among other things, provide advice on overall research objectives
20 and benchmarks for pancreatic cancer research; now, therefore,
21 be it

22 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
23 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
24 urges the President and Congress of the United States to expand
25 federally funded research efforts aimed at developing a reliable
26 means of detecting pancreatic cancer in its early stages and more
27 effective means of treatment, through legislative measures, such
28 as H.R. 745; and be it further

29 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
30 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
31 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each
32 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
33 United States, and to the directors of the National Institutes of
34 Health and the National Cancer Institute.