

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 7

Introduced by Senator Lowenthal

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Torlakson)

(Coauthors: Senators Ashburn and Maldonado)

(Coauthor: Assembly Member Ma Coauthors: Assembly Members Ma, Ammiano, Arambula, Beall, Bass, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Block, Blumenfeld, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Carter, Chesbro, Cook, Coto, Davis, DeVore, Emmerson, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gilmore, Hagman, Harkey, Hayashi, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Lieu, Logue, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Nava, Nestande, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Portantino, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Skinner, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torres, Torrico, Tran, and Yamada)

April 20, 2009

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 7, as amended, 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

1 WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of pancreatic cancer patients
2 die within the first year of their diagnosis, and 95 percent die within
3 five years, making pancreatic cancer the deadliest of any cancer;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Pancreatic cancer is the fourth most common cause
6 of cancer death in the United States, with an estimated 3,380
7 Californians expected to die from pancreatic cancer in 2009; and

8 WHEREAS, There has been no significant improvement in
9 pancreatic cancer survival rates in over 30 years, and pancreatic
10 cancer research is still in the earliest scientific stages; and

11 WHEREAS, There are no early detection methods and minimal
12 treatment options for pancreatic cancer; and

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, There is a critical need to support research that
25 identifies new methods of detecting and treating pancreatic cancer;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, H.R. 745 was introduced in the United States House
28 of Representatives by California Congresswoman Anna Eshoo to
29 require the establishment of a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative and an
30 Interdisciplinary Pancreatic Cancer Coordinating Committee to,
31 among other things, provide advice on overall research objectives
32 and benchmarks for pancreatic cancer research; now, therefore,
33 be it

34 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
35 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
36 urges the President and Congress of the United States to expand
37 federally funded research efforts aimed at developing a reliable
38 means of detecting pancreatic cancer in its early stages and more
39 effective means of treatment, through legislative measures, such
40 as H.R. 745; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
2 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
3 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each
4 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
5 United States, and to the directors of the National Institutes of
6 Health and the National Cancer Institute.

O