

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 23

Introduced by Assembly Member Ma
(Principal coauthor: Senator Steinberg)

February 17, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 23—Relative to Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 23, as introduced, Ma. Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

This measure would designate March 2011 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 14,775
3 new cases and 5,085 deaths expected in 2011; and
4 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is treatable, curable, and in many
5 cases, completely preventable; and
6 WHEREAS, When colorectal cancers are detected at an early
7 stage, five-year survival is 91 percent; and
8 WHEREAS, There were approximately 1 million colorectal
9 cancer survivors in the United States in 2002; and
10 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is known as a silent killer because
11 symptoms show up only in the later stages of the disease; and
12 WHEREAS, With proper screening, colorectal cancer can be
13 prevented or, if found early, treated and cured; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2005, only 56 percent of the population in
2 California had received colorectal cancer screening according to
3 the guidelines; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the Institute of Medicine, access to
5 appropriate use of colorectal cancer screening tests, such as
6 colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, and fecal occult blood test (FOBT),
7 could reduce death rates of colon cancer up to 80 percent; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society, in
9 2008, only about 44 percent of colorectal cancers were diagnosed
10 at an early, more treatable and curable stage; and

11 WHEREAS, The uninsured, underinsured, and underserved are
12 least likely to get screening and treatment for colorectal cancer,
13 which means that they are more likely to be diagnosed at a late
14 stage when chances of survival drop to 12 percent; and

15 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer screening is one of the most
16 cost-effective prevention measures in health care, more cost
17 effective than breast or prostate cancer screening; and

18 WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest colorectal
19 cancer incidence and mortality rates of all racial groups in this
20 country, and early detection rates among African Americans in
21 California are low; and

22 WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos in California have lower
23 rates of screening for colorectal cancer, and lower rates of early
24 detection of the disease; and

25 WHEREAS, In California, colorectal cancer is the most common
26 cancer among Korean men, the second most common cancer among
27 Korean women, and the second most common cancer among
28 Japanese men and women, and only 43 percent of colorectal
29 cancers in Asians and Pacific Islanders are caught at an early stage;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, The California Colorectal Cancer Coalition (C4)
32 is a nonprofit organization established to increase colorectal cancer
33 screening rates in an effort to decrease mortality associated with
34 the disease, and implement strategies to reduce disparities in
35 colorectal cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment among
36 underserved populations in California; and

37 WHEREAS, C4 encourages Californians to discuss the
38 colorectal cancer screening test that is best for them with their
39 doctors and believes that the best test is the one you have done;
40 now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates March
3 2011 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
5 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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