

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 18

Introduced by Assembly Member Carter

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Allen, Bradford, Campos, Cedillo, Davis, Roger Hernández, Hueso, Lara, Mitchell, Solorio, and Torres Torres, Achadjian, Alejo, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfeld, Bonilla, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Donnelly, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Harkey, Hayashi, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Swanson, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

(Coauthors: Senators De León and Rubio)

September 1, 2011

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 18—Relative to Sickle Cell Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 18, as amended, Carter. Sickle Cell Awareness Month.

This measure would recognize September 2011 as Sickle Cell Awareness Month in California and would urge the President and the Congress of the United States to restore funding for sickle cell anemia centers and research and to make sickle cell anemia and other genetic hemoglobinopathies a public health priority.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Sickle cell anemia and sickle cell disease, though
2 used interchangeably, refer to a group of inherited disorders that
3 affect the red blood cells; and

4 WHEREAS, Red blood cells with normal hemoglobin are
5 smooth and round, and glide easily through blood vessels. In the
6 bodies of people with sickle cell disease, their cells assume a
7 curved or “sickle” shape and become hard and sticky, blocking
8 blood flow and preventing oxygen from getting through tissues
9 and causing severe pain and damage to organs; and

10 WHEREAS, It is estimated that over 70,000 Americans have
11 sickle cell anemia. About 2.5 million Americans have the sickle
12 cell trait, meaning they carry one copy of the gene for the disease;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Sickle cell anemia occurs in 1 out of every 400
15 African American births and 1 out of every 19,000 Hispanic
16 American births. The sickle cell trait occurs in approximately 1
17 out of 12 African Americans and 1 out of 100 for Latino
18 populations; and

19 WHEREAS, The Sickle Cell Control Act was signed into law
20 in 1972 by President Richard Nixon after pledging that his
21 administration would “reverse the record of neglect on the dreaded
22 disease” and to increase funding and expand sickle cell
23 disease-related activities including the development of
24 comprehensive sickle cell centers; and

25 WHEREAS, Over 30 years later, the Sickle Cell Treatment Act
26 of 2003 was signed into law; and

27 WHEREAS, Originating in 1975, when the Sickle Cell Disease
28 Association of America and its member organizations began
29 conducting month-long events in September to call attention to
30 sickle cell disease and the need to address the problem at national
31 and local levels, chose September as National Sickle Cell
32 Awareness Month for the public to reflect on children and adults
33 whose lives, education, and careers have been affected by this
34 disease; and

35 WHEREAS, Since 2002, the Sickle Cell Disease Association
36 of America has worked with congressional champions to authorize
37 and fund a number of national sickle cell disease legislative
38 programs that provide support for patients suffering from sickle
39 cell disease, while encouraging enhanced research intended to

1 identify next-generation treatments and a cure for sickle cell
2 disease; and

3 WHEREAS, The effort to have Sickle Cell Awareness Month
4 officially recognized at all levels succeeded in 1983 when the
5 House of Representatives unanimously passed, and the President
6 signed, the first resolution introduced by the Congressional Black
7 Caucus designating September as National Sickle Cell Anemia
8 Awareness Month in 1983; now, therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
10 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of California recognizes
11 September 2011 as Sickle Cell Awareness Month in California;
12 and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the California State Legislature urges the
14 President and the Congress of the United States to restore funding
15 for sickle cell anemia centers and research and to make sickle cell
16 anemia and other genetic hemoglobinopathies a public health
17 priority; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
19 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
20 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
21 Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative
22 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
23 author for appropriate distribution.