

**Introduced by Senator Runner**

**(Coauthors: Senators Alquist, Anderson, Berryhill, Blakeslee, Calderon, Cannella, Corbett, Correa, De León, DeSaulnier, Dutton, Emmerson, Evans, Fuller, Gaines, Hancock, Harman, Hernandez, Huff, Kehoe, La Malfa, Lieu, Liu, Lowenthal, Negrete McLeod, Padilla, Pavley, Price, Rubio, Simitian, Strickland, Vargas, Walters, Wright, Wyland, and Yee)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Knight and Smyth)

April 14, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 39—Relative to Scleroderma Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 39, as introduced, Runner. Scleroderma Awareness Month.

This measure would declare June 2011 as Scleroderma Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Scleroderma is a chronic, disabling autoimmune
- 2 disease in which the body's soft tissues suffer from an
- 3 overproduction of collagen; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Scleroderma can affect many parts of the body
- 5 including skin, internal organs, and blood vessels; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Scleroderma sufferers often experience damage
- 7 to the heart, lungs, kidneys, and the gastrointestinal system; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Many sufferers develop pulmonary hypertension
- 9 as a result of constriction of the blood vessels; and
- 10 WHEREAS, African Americans are more susceptible to systemic
- 11 scleroderma; and

1 WHEREAS, Researchers have yet to identify the exact cause  
2 or causes of scleroderma; and

3 WHEREAS, Researchers have found links between scleroderma  
4 and rheumatic disease; and

5 WHEREAS, An estimated 300,000 Americans suffer from  
6 scleroderma, and 80 percent of those are women; and

7 WHEREAS, The estimated total economic impact of  
8 scleroderma treatment is estimated to be in excess of \$1.5 billion  
9 annually; and

10 WHEREAS, The morbidity cost associated with scleroderma  
11 is an estimated \$819,000,000 annually; and

12 WHEREAS, The direct cost of treatment for scleroderma is  
13 estimated to be \$462,000,000 annually; and

14 WHEREAS, There is a significant need for further research  
15 focusing on the epidemiology of scleroderma to increase  
16 understanding of the causes of the disease and its treatment; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States Congress has recognized the  
18 need to raise awareness of the impact of scleroderma on public  
19 health and has designated a National Scleroderma Awareness  
20 Month; and

21 WHEREAS, California should also designate a month as  
22 Scleroderma Awareness Month to help educate the public about  
23 autoimmune diseases and the need for increased research, funding,  
24 and effective treatments for those diseases; and

25 WHEREAS, The designation of such a month would recognize  
26 the efforts of health care providers, patients, and scleroderma  
27 advocacy organizations to increase awareness of scleroderma and  
28 of the need for increased research on scleroderma; and

29 WHEREAS, June 2011 would be an appropriate month to  
30 designate as Scleroderma Awareness Month; now, therefore, be  
31 it

32 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
33 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of  
34 June 2011 as Scleroderma Awareness Month; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
36 the resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.