

Introduced by Senator Evans
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Atkins)

January 25, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 61—Relative to Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 61, as introduced, Evans. Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.

This measure would recognize January 2012 as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, and would encourage prompt access to preventive services and medical care in order to overcome barriers to care and treatment for cervical cancer.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Cervical cancer was once one of the most common
- 2 causes of cancer death for American women; and
- 3 WHEREAS, In California, cervical cancer continues to be the
- 4 12th most common cancer diagnosed among women and the
- 5 seventh most common cancer among the Latina and Vietnamese
- 6 populations; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Each year, approximately 1,400 California women
- 8 are diagnosed with cervical cancer, and more than 400 die from
- 9 this disease; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Cervical cancer is preventable through regular
- 11 screenings and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, but the
- 12 cost of treating cervical cancer continues to range from \$300
- 13 million dollars to \$400 million dollars nationwide; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Many women are not aware of cervical cancer and
- 15 the steps that can be taken to prevent this disease; and

1 WHEREAS, Mortality from cervical cancer is associated with
2 being diagnosed at a later stage, which often stems from poor
3 access to preventive services and a lack of understanding about
4 following up for care after an abnormal finding; and

5 WHEREAS, Awareness of cervical cancer, its risk factors, and
6 the importance of access to preventive measures, including regular
7 Pap tests and the HPV vaccination, are critical to perpetuating the
8 continual decrease of the incidence of cervical cancer in women;
9 now, therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
11 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of
12 January 2012 as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month; and be it
13 further

14 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages prompt access to
15 preventive services, including Pap tests and HPV vaccinations,
16 and high-quality medical care and treatment, in order to overcome
17 ethnic, racial, and economic barriers to care that can increase a
18 woman's lifetime risk of developing cervical cancer; and be it
19 further

20 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
21 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.