

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, Leno, Lieu, Liu, Lowenthal, Negrete McLeod, Padilla, Pavley, Price, Rubio, Simitian, Steinberg, Strickland, Vargas, Walters, Wolk, Wright, Wyland, and Yee)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Knight and Smyth)

May 17, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 91—Relative to Scleroderma Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 91, as introduced, Runner. Scleroderma Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim June 2012 as Scleroderma Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Scleroderma is a chronic, disabling autoimmune
- 2 disease in which the body's soft tissues contract and harden from
- 3 an 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 tract; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Scleroderma is associated with many other
- 9 conditions including pulmonary hypertension, gastroparesis,
- 10 Raynaud's phenomenon, Sjögren's syndrome, and lupus; and

1 WHEREAS, Choctaw Native Americans, African Americans,
2 and Hispanics are disproportionately affected by scleroderma; and

3 WHEREAS, Researchers have yet to identify the exact cause
4 or causes of scleroderma; 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, There is a significant need for further research
11 focusing on the epidemiology of scleroderma to increase
12 understanding of the causes of the disease and its treatment; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States Congress has recognized the
14 need to raise awareness of the impact of scleroderma on public
15 health and has designated June as National Scleroderma Awareness
16 Month; and

17 WHEREAS, California should also designate a month as
18 Scleroderma Awareness Month to help educate the public about
19 autoimmune diseases and the need for increased research, funding,
20 and effective treatments for those diseases; and

21 WHEREAS, The designation of such a month would recognize
22 the efforts of health care providers, patients, and scleroderma
23 advocacy organizations to raise awareness of scleroderma and of
24 the need for increased research on scleroderma; and

25 WHEREAS, June 2012 would be an appropriate month to
26 designate as Scleroderma Awareness Month; now, therefore, be
27 it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of
30 June 2012 as Scleroderma Awareness Month; and be it further

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