

Introduced by Senator Beall

July 2, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 134—Relative to Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 134, as introduced, Beall. Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. This measure would proclaim November 2014 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and urge all Californians to know, fight, and end pancreatic cancer.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 2014, an estimated 46,420 people will be
- 2 diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and 39,590 people will die from
- 3 the disease in the United States, and the incidence and death rates
- 4 for pancreatic cancer are increasing; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers,
- 6 as it is anticipated to move from the fourth to the second leading
- 7 cause of cancer death in the United States by 2020; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Symptoms of pancreatic cancer usually first present
- 9 themselves in its late stage; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Seventy-three percent of pancreatic cancer patients
- 11 die within the first year of their diagnosis, while 94 percent of
- 12 pancreatic cancer patients die within the first five years, rendering
- 13 the disease the only major cancer with a five-year relative survival
- 14 rate in the single digits at just 6 percent; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Approximately 3,960 deaths from pancreatic cancer
- 16 will occur in California in 2014; and

1 WHEREAS, The federal government invests significantly less
2 money in pancreatic cancer research than it does in research of
3 any other deadly cancer, constituting only approximately 2 percent
4 of the National Cancer Institute’s budget, a figure far too low given
5 the severity of the disease, its mortality rate, and how little is
6 known about how to arrest it; and

7 WHEREAS, The Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act of 2012,
8 formerly the Pancreatic Cancer Research and Education Act,
9 requires that the National Cancer Institute develop a scientific
10 framework for combating pancreatic cancer and other recalcitrant
11 cancers; and

12 WHEREAS, The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is a national
13 organization serving the pancreatic cancer community in California,
14 where it is headquartered, and nationwide through a comprehensive
15 approach, which includes public policy, research funding, patient
16 services, and public awareness and education related to developing
17 effective treatments and a cure for pancreatic cancer; and

18 WHEREAS, The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and its
19 affiliates in California support those patients and families currently
20 battling pancreatic cancer, as well as the friends and families of
21 those who have lost their lives to the disease, and are committed
22 to nothing less than a cure; and

23 WHEREAS, The good health and well-being of the residents
24 of California are enhanced as a direct result of increased awareness
25 about pancreatic cancer and research into early detection, causes,
26 and effective treatments; and

27 WHEREAS, Pancreatic cancer statistics call for aggressive
28 measures now to develop early detection and treatment tools before
29 the incidence dramatically increases, in light of the fact that
30 National Cancer Institute funding is falling dangerously behind;
31 now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
33 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby proclaims
34 November 2014 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and urges
35 all Californians to know, fight, and end pancreatic cancer; and be
36 it further

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

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