

Introduced by Senator Glazer
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Gipson)

March 15, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 118—Relative to Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 118, as introduced, Glazer. Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. This bill would designate March 2016 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of
- 2 cancer deaths in Californians, with 14,510 new cases and 5,180
- 3 deaths expected in 2016; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is treatable, curable, and in many
- 5 cases, completely preventable; and
- 6 WHEREAS, When colorectal cancers are detected at an early
- 7 stage, the survival rate is 95 percent; and
- 8 WHEREAS, There were approximately 1 million colorectal
- 9 cancer survivors in the United States in 2002; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is known as a silent killer because
- 11 symptoms only show up in the later stages of the disease; and
- 12 WHEREAS, With proper screening, colorectal cancer can be
- 13 prevented or, if found early, treated and cured; and
- 14 WHEREAS, In 2013, only 49 percent of California adults 50
- 15 years of age and older had received a sigmoidoscopy or
- 16 colonoscopy, and 34 percent had received a fecal occult blood test
- 17 (FOBT) to screen for colorectal cancer; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the United States Preventive Services
2 Task Force, access to appropriate use of colorectal cancer screening
3 tests, such as colonoscopies, sigmoidoscopies, and fecal occult
4 blood tests (FOBT)/fecal immunochemical tests (FIT), could reduce
5 death rates of colon cancer up to 66 percent; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society, in
7 2012, only about 42 percent of colorectal cancers were diagnosed
8 at an early, more treatable and curable stage; and

9 WHEREAS, The uninsured, underinsured, and underserved are
10 least likely to get screening for colorectal cancer, which means
11 they are more likely to be diagnosed at a late stage when chances
12 of survival drop to 13 percent; and

13 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer screening is one of the most
14 cost-effective prevention measures in health care, more
15 cost-effective than breast or prostate cancer screening; and

16 WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest colorectal
17 cancer incidence and mortality rates of all racial groups in this
18 country; and

19 WHEREAS, In California, colorectal cancer is the most common
20 cancer among Korean men and Hmong women, the second most
21 common cancer among Hispanic, Japanese, South Asian,
22 Kampuchean, and Hawaiian men, and the second most common
23 cancer among Chinese, Filipino, Hispanic, Japanese, Korean,
24 Laotian, Vietnamese, and Hawaiian women; and

25 WHEREAS, The California Colorectal Cancer Coalition (C4)
26 is a nonprofit organization established to increase colorectal cancer
27 screening rates in an effort to decrease mortality associated with
28 the disease, and to implement strategies to reduce disparities in
29 colorectal cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment among
30 underserved populations in California; and

31 WHEREAS, The California Colorectal Cancer Coalition (C4)
32 encourages Californians to discuss the colorectal cancer screening
33 test that is best for them with their doctors and believes that the
34 best test is the one you have done now; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
36 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the month of
37 March 2016 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; and be it
38 further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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