

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 21, 2006

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 134**

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**Introduced by ~~Senator Ortiz~~ *Senators Ortiz and Perata***

August 17, 2006

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 134, as amended, Ortiz. Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

This measure would provide that the California Legislature recognizes September 2006 as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month throughout California, and would encourage and promote the efforts of the people and the health care practitioners of the state to increase their awareness of this disease and to educate themselves about its early detection and prevention, the risk factors involved in its development, and the early warning symptoms and signs.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all
- 2 gynecological cancers, and the reported incidence of ovarian
- 3 cancer is increasing over time; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of
- 5 cancer deaths among United States women; and
- 6 WHEREAS, All women are at risk for ovarian cancer, and 90
- 7 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer do not have a
- 8 family history that puts them at higher risk; and
- 9 WHEREAS, The Pap smear is sensitive and specific to the
- 10 early detection of cervical cancer, but not to *detect* ovarian
- 11 cancer; and

1 WHEREAS, There is currently no reliable and  
2 easy-to-administer screening test used for the early detection of  
3 ovarian cancer; and

4 WHEREAS, Many people are unaware that the symptoms of  
5 ovarian cancer can often include persistent abdominal pressure,  
6 bloating, abnormal bleeding, and unexplained weight loss or  
7 gain, among several other symptoms that are easily confused  
8 with other diseases; and

9 WHEREAS, Due to lack of a reliable early screening test, 75  
10 percent of ovarian cancer cases are detected at an advanced stage,  
11 when the five-year survival rate is only 25 percent, a much lower  
12 rate than for many other cancers; and

13 WHEREAS, If diagnosed and treated at an early stage before  
14 the cancer spreads outside of the ovary, the treatment is  
15 potentially less costly, and the five-year survival rate is as high as  
16 90 percent; and

17 WHEREAS, There are factors that are known to reduce the  
18 risk for ovarian cancer and play an important role in the  
19 prevention of the disease; and

20 WHEREAS, Awareness and early recognition of ovarian  
21 cancer symptoms are currently the best way to save women's  
22 lives; and

23 WHEREAS, The State of California has responded to the need  
24 for increased education and information about these cancers and  
25 in 1997 created the Gynecologic Cancer Information Program  
26 within the State Department of Health Services' Office of  
27 Women's Health to produce and distribute patient education  
28 materials; and

29 WHEREAS, The State of California currently operates the  
30 Cancer Research Program within the State Department of Health  
31 Services, which was established in 1998 and provides critical  
32 funds for innovative and needed cancer research in California  
33 with an emphasis on gender-specific cancers, such as ovarian,  
34 cervical, and prostate cancers; and

35 WHEREAS, The Legislature has, pursuant to Resolution  
36 Chapter 132 of the Statutes of 1999 (SCR 46), designated the  
37 month of September of every year as Ovarian Cancer Awareness  
38 Month throughout the State of California; now, therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
40 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California

1 hereby recognizes September 2006 as Ovarian Cancer Awareness  
2 Month throughout California, and encourages and promotes the  
3 efforts of the people and the health care practitioners of the state  
4 to increase their awareness of this disease and to educate  
5 themselves about its early detection and prevention, the risk  
6 factors involved in its development, and the early warning  
7 symptoms and signs thereof; and be it further  
8 *Resolved* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
9 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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