

Senate Joint Resolution No. 7

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 85

Senate Joint Resolution No. 7—Relative to pancreatic cancer.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 24, 2009.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 7, Lowenthal. Pancreatic cancer.

This measure would urge the President and the Congress of the United States to expand federally funded research efforts aimed at developing a reliable means of detecting pancreatic cancer in its early stages.

WHEREAS, Approximately 38,000 Americans, including an estimated 3,625 Californians, will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year; and

WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis, and 95 percent die within five years, making pancreatic cancer the deadliest of any cancer; and

WHEREAS, Pancreatic cancer is the fourth most common cause of cancer death in the United States, with an estimated 3,380 Californians expected to die from pancreatic cancer in 2009; and

WHEREAS, There has been no significant improvement in pancreatic cancer survival rates in over 30 years, and pancreatic cancer research is still in the earliest scientific stages; and

WHEREAS, There are no early detection methods and minimal treatment options for pancreatic cancer; and

WHEREAS, The incidence rate of pancreatic cancer is 40 to 50 percent higher in African Americans than in other ethnic groups, with Jews of Ashkenazi descent also at an increased genetic risk; and

WHEREAS, Pancreatic cancer has struck such notable figures as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Patrick Swayze, Dr. Randy Pausch, and Luciano Pavarotti; and

WHEREAS, Pancreatic cancer research constitutes less than 2 percent of the National Cancer Institute's federal research funding, a figure far too low given the severity of the disease, its mortality rate, and how little is known about how to arrest it; and

WHEREAS, There is a critical need to support research that identifies new methods of detecting and treating pancreatic cancer; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 745 was introduced in the United States House of Representatives by California Congresswoman Anna Eshoo to require the establishment of a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative and an Interdisciplinary Pancreatic Cancer Coordinating Committee to, among other things, provide advice on overall research objectives and benchmarks for pancreatic cancer research; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California urges the President and Congress of the United States to expand federally funded research efforts aimed at developing a reliable means of detecting pancreatic cancer in its early stages and more effective means of treatment, through legislative measures, such as H.R. 745; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the directors of the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute.