

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 11, 2013
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 4, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 5

Introduced by Assembly Member Gomez

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Grove, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)

January 17, 2013

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 5, as amended, Gomez. National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week.

This measure would designate the week of April 20 to 26, 2014, inclusive, as National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week, encourage continued research into policies and programs that seek to reduce cancer disparities and, as a result, improve cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and followup care for all Californians, and urge the President and the Congress of the United States to recognize National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week
2 has been observed across the country each year since 1987 in an
3 effort to bring attention to the disparities of cancer among
4 medically underserved populations; and

5 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society is participating in
6 National Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week to highlight the
7 disparities in cancer burdens and to encourage public and private
8 sector commitments in helping eliminate these disparities; and

9 WHEREAS, California is the most populous and ethnically and
10 culturally diverse state in the country, and thus, is in a position to
11 provide leadership for the nation to address the reduction of the
12 incidence of cancer among all races, ethnicities, and genders; and

13 WHEREAS, In California, disparities exist in knowledge about
14 cancer, cancer survival, and access to early detection, high-quality
15 treatment, health care coverage, and health care. Social inequities
16 also exist, including differences in occupational hazards,
17 environmental exposures to pollution and other toxins, access to
18 education, nutrition, physical activity, safe neighborhoods, healthy
19 food options, and other factors that contribute to an increased or
20 reduced risk of cancer; and

21 WHEREAS, The risk of developing and dying from cancer
22 varies considerably among different cultural populations in
23 California. The medically underserved are often diagnosed at later
24 stages, and with a higher incidence of cancers with higher
25 mortality, such as lung cancer, and are more likely to receive
26 delayed health care; and

1 WHEREAS, Cancer is the leading cause of death among Latinos,
2 Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders, and is the second leading
3 cause of death for most other Californians; and

4 WHEREAS, In California, African American males have the
5 highest overall cancer incidence and mortality rates. African
6 American women are more likely to die of breast cancer, although
7 non-Hispanic white women are the most likely to be diagnosed
8 with the disease. African Americans have substantially higher rates
9 of cancers of the stomach, small intestine, liver, and larynx,
10 myeloma, and Kaposi’s sarcoma than non-Hispanic whites. African
11 American men are at especially high risk for prostate cancer, more
12 than any other racial and ethnic group; and

13 WHEREAS, In California, lung cancer is the most common
14 cancer among Laotian and Vietnamese men, while prostate cancer
15 is the most common cancer for men in most other ethnic groups.
16 Colorectal cancer is the most common cancer among Kampuchean
17 and Korean men. Despite an overall statewide decline in colorectal
18 cancer rates from 1988–2008, incidence sharply increased among
19 Koreans and Vietnamese. Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and
20 Latinos have substantially higher rates of liver and stomach cancer
21 than other groups. Vietnamese women have much higher rates of
22 cervical cancer than non-Hispanic white women. Asian Americans
23 have among the lowest rates of screening for breast, cervical, and
24 colorectal cancers. There remains a lack of data about factors
25 related to cancer, cancer control, and effective interventions among
26 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and

27 WHEREAS, In California, Latinos have substantially higher
28 rates of stomach and liver cancers than other Californians. Latinos
29 have higher rates of acute lymphocytic leukemia and cervical
30 cancer than non-Hispanic whites. Latinos have the highest
31 likelihood of being medically uninsured, which can create serious
32 barriers to screenings, early detection, and treatment. Latino women
33 have the highest risk of developing cervical cancer, significantly
34 higher, than non-Hispanic white women, African American women,
35 Asian American women, and Pacific Islander women; and

36 WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society,
37 members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community
38 are at greater risk for cancer, have faced specific challenges
39 accessing quality health care, and may hesitate to access health
40 care because of previous discrimination in health care settings.

1 Lesbians have fewer mammograms, pelvic examinations, and Pap
2 smear tests than heterosexual women. There remains a lack of data
3 about factors related to cancer, cancer control, and effective
4 interventions in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
5 community; now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved, by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
7 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the President and
8 the Congress of the United States to recognize “National
9 Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week”; and be it further

10 *Resolved,* That the Legislature declares the week of April 20 to
11 26, 2014, inclusive, as “National Multicultural Cancer Awareness
12 Week,” within the State of California, and encourages continued
13 research into policies and programs that seek to reduce cancer
14 disparities and, as a result, improve cancer prevention, detection,
15 treatment, and followup care for all Californians; and be it further

16 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
17 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
18 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
19 Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative
20 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
21 author for appropriate distribution.