

**Introduced by Senator Pan**

April 25, 2016

---

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 134—Relative to diabetes prevention.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 134, as introduced, Pan. Diabetes: the “Screen at 23” campaign. This measure would urge the State Department of Public Health to endorse the “Screen at 23” campaign to screen all adult Asian Americans with a body mass index of 23 or higher for type II diabetes.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1     WHEREAS, Approximately 2.5 million Californians, or 9  
2 percent of the population, are diagnosed with diabetes, 46 percent  
3 of Californians are estimated to have prediabetes, and residents of  
4 Asian American heritage comprise 14 percent of the population  
5 of the State of California; and

6     WHEREAS, Diabetes is the fifth leading cause of death among  
7 Asian Americans; and

8     WHEREAS, Asian Americans are 30 percent more likely to  
9 have diabetes than White Americans and are also at greater risk  
10 of developing prediabetes, diabetes, and associated risks at a lower  
11 body mass index (BMI) than White, Hispanic, Black, or Native  
12 Americans; and

13     WHEREAS, Asian Americans face a health care disparity in  
14 type II diabetes detection and diagnosis, as the current guidelines  
15 for screening Asian Americans at a body mass index of 25kg/m<sup>2</sup>  
16 not only miss 36 percent of diabetes diagnoses, or approximately

1 116,000 individuals, in California but also underestimate the  
2 prevalence of prediabetes among Asian Americans; and

3 WHEREAS, Two out of three persons with type II diabetes die  
4 from heart attack or stroke, and adults with diabetes are at risk for  
5 developing end-stage renal disease and kidney failure, blindness,  
6 and lower limb loss; and

7 WHEREAS, The per capita health care cost of diabetes in  
8 California is \$14,800 per year and the annual cost for diabetes in  
9 California is \$37.1 billion, including \$27.6 billion in medical costs  
10 and \$9.5 billion in indirect costs and productivity loss; and

11 WHEREAS, Thirty-eight percent of all hospitalized Asian  
12 Americans in California have diabetes, which leads to more  
13 expensive hospital care regardless of the reason for hospitalization;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Early detection and treatment can mitigate  
16 diabetes-related complications, risks and costs; and

17 WHEREAS, Interventions focusing on nutrition, physical  
18 activity, and healthy weight loss have been shown to reverse  
19 prediabetes, improve glucose function in diabetics, and reduce the  
20 need for multiple medications; and

21 WHEREAS, Screening Asian American patients at a BMI of  
22 23 instead of 25 would unmask over 67,000 diabetes cases, and  
23 many thousands more prediabetes cases in California, thereby  
24 initiating treatment or early interventions to reduce negative  
25 co-morbidities like heart diseases, kidney diseases, and limb  
26 amputation; and

27 WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health recently found  
28 that more than half of Asian Americans with diabetes are  
29 undiagnosed and community-based participatory research and  
30 studies on Asian American subpopulations have shown that Asian  
31 Americans develop diabetes at a lower body mass index; and

32 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization recommends  
33 screening Asian patients at a lower body mass index than  
34 non-Hispanic Whites, and the 2015 official guidelines of the  
35 American Diabetes Association recommend that Asian Americans  
36 should be tested for type II diabetes at a body mass index of 23;  
37 and

38 WHEREAS, The Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific  
39 Islanders Diabetes Coalition has coordinated the “Asian BMI”

1 efforts of over 15 national and regional organizations, culminating  
2 in the launch of the “Screen at 23” campaign; and

3 WHEREAS, California has the opportunity to become one of  
4 the first states to formally recognize and recommend screening  
5 adult Asian Americans for type II diabetes at a body mass index  
6 of 23, enabling thousands of individuals to get the early care and  
7 treatment needed to live healthier and happier lives; now, therefore,  
8 be it

9 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
10 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature endorses and supports  
11 the “Screen at 23” campaign; and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges the State Department of  
13 Public Health to endorse and support the “Screen at 23” campaign’s  
14 efforts to increase awareness of diabetes among Asian American  
15 communities, including the use of appropriate screening measures  
16 for Asian American patients and to eliminate disparities; and be  
17 it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges the State Department of  
19 Public Health to encourage all public and private health providers  
20 and facilities to also participate in these efforts; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
22 this resolution to the author, the Governor, and the Director of the  
23 State Department of Public Health for appropriate distribution.