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**ACR-258 Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Awareness Day.** (2017-2018)

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**Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 258**

**CHAPTER 171**

Relative to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Awareness Day.

[ Filed with Secretary of State August 28, 2018. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

ACR 258, Gloria. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Awareness Day.

This measure would designate August 16, 2018, as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Awareness Day in California to enhance public awareness of comprehensive human immunodeficiency virus prevention strategies.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that approximately 1.2 million people in the United States, and over 220,000 people in California, are at high risk for exposure to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and could benefit from comprehensive HIV prevention strategies; and

WHEREAS, Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is an antiretroviral medication that has been shown to be safe and effective in reducing the risk of acquiring HIV among people who are at high risk of acquiring the virus; and

WHEREAS, PrEP is estimated to be over 90 percent effective at preventing HIV infection, but only about 12 percent of the 1.2 million Americans at high risk for HIV exposure have initiated the PrEP regimen; and

WHEREAS, Individuals who have had possible exposure to HIV can take post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) within 72 hours as an emergency antiretroviral medication that has been shown to be safe and effective in reducing the risk of acquiring HIV; and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 139,000 Californians living with HIV, and annually California has the largest number of new HIV diagnoses in the country, especially in the counties of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego; and

WHEREAS, Despite a 2.9 percent decline in the rate of new HIV diagnoses in California between 2011 and 2015, racial and ethnic disparities in HIV incidence and prevalence persist; and

WHEREAS, Racial and ethnic disparities also exist in the utilization of PrEP and PEP from lack of awareness of these medications among disadvantaged populations, who are at greatest risk of HIV infection, and from limited access to culturally and linguistically sensitive clinicians with whom patients feel comfortable discussing sexual matters; and

WHEREAS, Among medical and health professionals, there is a lack of education and awareness of PrEP and PEP. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates approximately one-third of primary care doctors and nurses have not learned or heard about PrEP and PEP; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to increase public awareness of PrEP and PEP, and to strengthen local and statewide awareness of comprehensive HIV prevention strategies in order to mitigate the spread of HIV, especially among Californians most at risk of getting infected with the virus; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, the State Department of Public Health released its Integrated HIV Surveillance, Prevention, and Care Plan with an articulated vision of "Getting to Zero," where their goal is to reduce new HIV infections to zero, AIDS-related deaths to zero, and to eliminate stigma and discrimination against people with HIV in California; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to encourage primary care physicians and nurses to provide culturally and linguistically competent care of HIV prevention strategies, such as PrEP and PEP; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature wishes to enhance public awareness of PrEP and PEP; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby recognizes August 16, 2018, as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Awareness Day in California to enhance public awareness of PrEP and PEP; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.