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SCR-156 Diabetes Awareness Month. (2017-2018)

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 156

CHAPTER 185

Relative to Diabetes Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 04, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 156, Hertzberg. Diabetes Awareness Month.

This measure would designate November 2018 as Diabetes Awareness Month and would, among other things, encourage individuals to seek screening to understand their diabetes risk.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Diabetes is a leading cause of disabling and life-threatening complications, including cardiovascular disease, stroke, amputation of the lower extremities, kidney failure, gum disease, tooth loss, and new cases of blindness among adults; and

WHEREAS, Type 2 diabetes is one of the fastest growing and most costly preventable chronic diseases impacting our children and families. Type 2 diabetes afflicts 30 million Americans, over 4 million of whom are Californians, and this disease is the cause of death of approximately 8,000 Californians each year; and

WHEREAS, Between 90 and 95 percent of adults diagnosed with diabetes have type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease, and 13 million Californians, or 46 percent of the adult population, have prediabetes, putting them at an increased risk for diabetes; and

WHEREAS, Prediabetes rates are higher among adults of color, with at least half of Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and African Americans estimated to have prediabetes; and

WHEREAS, The percentage of American teens who have diabetes or prediabetes has increased from 9 percent to 25 percent in the last 10 years. Sugary drinks provide more daily calories to teens' diets than any other single type of food or beverage, and 62 percent of California teens ages 12 to 17, inclusive, consume at least one sugary drink per day. People consuming one or more sugary drinks per day have a 26 percent higher risk of type 2 diabetes; and

WHEREAS, Sugar and sugary beverages are a major contributor of tooth decay. 71 percent of California's children experience tooth decay by the time they reach the 3rd grade. More than half a million children in California miss at least one school day per year to due dental problems; and

WHEREAS, Fifty percent of California infants ages 0-2 years, inclusive, have never been to the dentist. In 2007, nearly 1 in 5 persons were uninsured; and

WHEREAS, Tooth decay is more common among Hispanic and African American children than among non-Hispanic white children. Among children ages 3 to 5, inclusive, tooth decay was found in 47.2 percent of Hispanic children, 36.8 percent of African American children, and 29.2 percent of non-Hispanic white children. Among children ages 6 to 9 years, inclusive, tooth decay was found in 70.3 percent of Hispanic children, 55.6 percent of African-American children, and 50 percent of non-Hispanic white children; and

WHEREAS, Patients with diabetes have a higher risk of oral health problems, such as gingivitis, gum disease, and tooth decay due to a higher risk of bacterial infection and decreased ability to fight bacteria that invades the gums; and

WHEREAS, There is a proven relationship between serious gum disease and diabetes. People with diabetes are more susceptible to serious gum disease, and serious gum disease may have the potential to affect blood glucose control and contribute to the progression of diabetes; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics and African Americans are 70 percent more likely to develop type 2 diabetes compared to non-Hispanic whites, and 20 percent of Asian Americans are more likely to develop diabetes compared to their non-Hispanic white counterparts; and

WHEREAS, Fifty-one percent of Asian Americans with type 2 diabetes remain undiagnosed, and deaths associated with diabetes are twice as high among African Americans and Hispanics as compared to non-Hispanic whites; and

WHEREAS, California has the largest population with diabetes in the nation. Early diagnosis and treatment can improve an individual's odds in avoiding diabetes; and

WHEREAS, Diabetes has a severe financial impact on patients with the disease. People diagnosed with diabetes assume an average of \$16,752 in medical expenses annually, which is approximately 2.3 times higher than medical expenses for people without diabetes; and

WHEREAS, Government insurance provides 66 percent of the cost for diabetes care in the United States, and the total cost related to the treatment of diabetes in California alone is approximately \$39.5 billion each year; and

WHEREAS, People with diabetes who do not have health insurance have 60 percent fewer physician office visits and are prescribed 52 percent fewer medications than people with insurance coverage, but suffer 168 percent more emergency room visits than people who have insurance; and

WHEREAS, thirty-one percent of Californians admitted to hospitals in 2011 had diabetes. Populations with an even higher rate of hospital admittance include Hispanics at 43 percent, Native Americans at 40 percent, African Americans at 39 percent, and Asian Pacific Islanders at 38 percent; and

WHEREAS, Type 2 diabetes may be prevented or delayed; and

WHEREAS, Investing in programs to address the root causes of diabetes through education can improve an individual's odds at preventing the onset of the disease; and

WHEREAS, Access to appropriate health care, open spaces, parks, physical activity, clean drinking water, and healthy, affordable food, while limiting the marketing of harmful junk food and products, is necessary to combat this disease; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature declares November 2018 as Diabetes Awareness Month; and be it further

Resolved, That individuals are encouraged to seek screening to better understand their diabetes risk and to pursue early treatment, if necessary, to reduce the incidence of diabetes and its complications; and be it further

Resolved, That there is a significant need to focus additional prevention efforts in communities that are disproportionately affected by this disease; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.