

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 133

Introduced by Assembly Members Davis and Price

April 29, 2008

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 133—Relative to Black Barbershop Health Outreach Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 133, as introduced, Davis. Black Barbershop Health Outreach Month.

This measure would recognize May 2008 as “Black Barbershop Health Outreach Month” and encourages outreach on health disparities at all barbershops throughout California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, African American men suffer disproportionately
2 from preventable diseases and have a life expectancy lower than
3 that of any other ethnic group; and

4 WHEREAS, Some of the reasons why African American men
5 suffer far worse health than any other ethnic group include racial
6 discrimination, a lack of affordable health services, poor health
7 education, cultural barriers, poverty, employment that does not
8 carry health insurance, and insufficient medical and social services
9 catering to African American men; and

10 WHEREAS, More than 13 percent of African Americans over
11 20 years of age have diabetes; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2004, African American men were 30 percent
13 more likely to die from heart disease than non-Hispanic Caucasian
14 men; and

1 WHEREAS, African American adults were 50 percent more
2 likely to have a stroke and 60 percent more likely to die from a
3 stroke than their Caucasian adult counterparts; and

4 WHEREAS, Early detection and intervention are necessary to
5 address health problems experienced by African American males;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The Diabetic Amputation Prevention (DAP)
8 Foundation will launch the Black Barbershop Health Outreach
9 Program to address the growing number of African American men
10 in California affected by diabetes and hypertension; and

11 WHEREAS, Barbershops owned by African Americans
12 represent a cultural institution that regularly attract large numbers
13 of African American men and provide an environment of trust and
14 an avenue to disseminate health education information; and

15 WHEREAS, Volunteers for the Black Barbershop Health
16 Outreach Program will measure blood pressures, screen for
17 diabetes, and refer customers to participating physicians or health
18 care facilities if there are abnormal findings; and

19 WHEREAS, The primary objective of the Black Barbershop
20 Health Outreach Program is threefold: cardiovascular testing,
21 information dissemination, and referral; and

22 WHEREAS, The goal of the Black Barbershop Health Outreach
23 Program is to use the existing community-based infrastructure of
24 African American-owned barbershops to conduct health care
25 screenings to approximately 2,000 African American men, provide
26 culturally appropriate educational materials about obesity, prostate
27 cancer, proper eating habits, and give information about the signs
28 and symptoms of other diseases affecting the African American
29 community; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
31 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of
32 May 2008 as “Black Barbershop Health Outreach Month” and
33 encourages outreach on health disparities at all barbershops
34 throughout California; and be it further

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

O