

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 26—Senators Porter, Amodei, Care, Carlton, Coffin, Jacobsen, James, Mathews, McGinness, Neal, O’Connell, O’Donnell, Raggio, Rawson, Rhoads, Schneider, Shaffer, Titus, Townsend, Washington and Wiener

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Proclaiming April 2, 2001, as Prostate Cancer Awareness Day and September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, In the United States, a man is diagnosed every 3 minutes and one dies every 14 minutes from prostate cancer, the second leading cause of death in men with cancer; and

WHEREAS, Of the approximately 30 million men over 50 years of age in the United States, about 42 percent will experience prostate cancer sometime during their lives; and

WHEREAS, At this time, the cause of prostate cancer is unknown, it is not preventable, and treatment is most effective during the early stages; and

WHEREAS, Former Nevada Governor Bob Miller, prominent Nevada television news reporter John Tyson and former presidential candidate Robert Dole have been at the forefront in educating Nevadans and the rest of the American public about prostate cancer; and

WHEREAS, A study by the National Academies of Science of military participants in U.S. nuclear weapons tests during the 1950s, including the Nevada Test Site, found that deaths from prostate cancer were 20 percent higher among nuclear test participants; and

WHEREAS, Because many men with prostate cancer have no symptoms, they feel confident that they are in good health and do not protect themselves by getting regular screening; and

WHEREAS, Half or more of primary care doctors do not offer screening for prostate cancer, even to men at risk, such as males with a family history of the disease and African-American men who have a rate 32 percent higher than their Caucasian counterparts; and

WHEREAS, Because of the lack of clinical trials, the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute and other organizations take a conservative approach to screening for prostate cancer, believing that the benefit of screening has not been proven; and

WHEREAS, Until recently, many doctors felt that testing discovered many cases of cancer that need not be treated, causing unnecessary stress to the patient, and that treatment sometimes does more harm than good, diminishing the quality of life of their patients; and

WHEREAS, If not detected early, prostate cancer cells can escape the confines of the prostate, making treatment very difficult and increasing the mortality rate of the disease; and

WHEREAS, Prostate cancer is primarily diagnosed in the early stages through a combination of two widely used diagnostic tests, prostate-specific antigen (PSA) and digital rectal examination (DRE); and

WHEREAS, Before the widespread use of the PSA test just over a decade ago, 70 percent of men diagnosed with prostate cancer were diagnosed in the advanced stages of the disease; and

WHEREAS, Now, because of more frequent use of early testing by the PSA and DRE, 70 percent of men are diagnosed in the earlier stages, leading to better chances of survival; and

WHEREAS, Scientists are enthusiastic about research to detect and find a cure for prostate cancer, including treating patients with surgery or radiation; and

WHEREAS, Studies of treatments using ultrasound are proving promising in that they may be more effective and have fewer side effects than other treatments; and

WHEREAS, Prostate cancer affects not only the men afflicted with this disease, but also affects their families and friends; and

WHEREAS, Early detection and treatment of this disease are critically important; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Nevada Legislature is committed to protecting men's health and saving lives by continuing to create greater public understanding of prostate cancer and the need for early detection, informed choices and continued research; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the Legislature proclaim April 2, 2001, as Prostate Cancer Awareness Day and September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.