

# ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 57 – VIRAL HEPATITIS AWARENESS DAY

*Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian*

---

## IN BRIEF

---

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 57 would raise much needed awareness regarding the risks associated with viral hepatitis and the importance of getting tested and treated, by declaring May 19, 2015 as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day in California.

## THE ISSUE

---

In the United States, there are more than five million people living with chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) or chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV). An estimated 350,000 California residents have hepatitis B infection, while an estimated 750,000 Californians are infected with hepatitis C. A majority of individuals infected by hepatitis B and C do not know that they are infected. These individuals are at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer, or liver failure; hepatitis B and C kills more people in California than anywhere in the country.

Hepatitis A is an acute liver disease lasting from a few weeks to a few months but does not lead to chronic infection. It is transmitted by close contact with fecal matter, close person to person contact, or ingestion of contaminated food or drink. This type of infection is most commonly transmitted in restaurants.

Hepatitis B ranges in severity from lasting a few weeks, to a serious chronic illness that can lead to liver disease or liver cancer. It is transmitted by contact with infectious blood, semen, sharing contaminated needles or from an infected mother to her newborn.

Hepatitis C is a liver disease, the infection is considered an acute illness and more often becomes a chronic condition that can lead to cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer. The disease is transferred by contact with the blood of an infected person.

Although prevention of HBV and HVC is possible, and some treatments are available, many people at risk or affected by these conditions are neither tested nor treated due to lack of awareness or access to care. With the help of Hepatitis awareness campaigns such as San Luis Obispo Hep C Project, that draw attention to the importance of hepatitis prevention, screening, and treatment, we can reduce the damage to individuals and our community.

## EXISTING LAW

---

The Legislature has approved four previous resolutions related to viral hepatitis:

- ACR 138 (Achadjian, 2014) declared May 19, 2014 as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day
- ACR 46 (Achadjian, 2013) declared May 19, 2013 as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day
- SCR 75 (Blakeslee, 2012) declared May 2012 as Hepatitis B Awareness Month in California.
- SCR 36 (Blakeslee, 2011) declared May 19, 2011 to be Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

## THE SOLUTION

---

In order to increase awareness and education for people of all ages, ACR 57 would declare May 19, 2015 as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

---

### Staff:

Alex Tacket  
(916) 319-2035  
alex.tacket@asm.ca.gov

### Sponsor:

SLO Hep C Project  
David Kilburn  
805/543-4372