

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 89

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 12, 2011

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman JOAN M. QUIGLEY**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

**Assemblyman ALEX DECROCE**

**District 26 (Morris and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Weinberg, Vitale, Madden and Greenstein**

**SYNOPSIS**

Memorializes Congress to seek withdrawal of United States Preventive Services Task Force recommendation against prostate-specific antigen-based screening for prostate cancer.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/10/2012)**

1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** memorializing the Congress of the United  
2       States to seek the withdrawal of the United States Preventive  
3       Services Task Force recommendation against prostate-specific  
4       antigen-based screening for prostate cancer for men in all age  
5       groups.  
6

7   **WHEREAS**, The United States Preventive Services Task Force  
8       (USPSTF) is an independent panel of non-federal experts in  
9       prevention and evidence-based medicine that is composed of  
10      primary care physicians who conduct scientific evidence reviews of  
11      a broad range of clinical health care preventive services and  
12      develop recommendations for primary care clinicians and health  
13      systems; and

14   **WHEREAS**, The USPSTF acknowledges that prostate cancer is the  
15      most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer in men in the United  
16      States, with one in six American men being diagnosed with prostate  
17      cancer in his lifetime; and

18   **WHEREAS**, Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer  
19      related deaths in men in the United States; and

20   **WHEREAS**, The National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer  
21      Society estimate that approximately 240,890 men in the United  
22      States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 33,720 men will  
23      die from the disease in 2011; and

24   **WHEREAS**, The American Cancer Society projects that in New Jersey  
25      alone, there will be approximately 7,840 newly diagnosed cases of  
26      prostate cancer and 1,100 deaths from the disease in 2011; and

27   **WHEREAS**, In 2008, the USPSTF recommended against prostate-  
28      specific antigen-based screening for prostate cancer for men 75  
29      years and older; and

30   **WHEREAS**, In October 2011, the USPSTF issued a new  
31      recommendation against prostate-specific antigen-based screening  
32      for prostate cancer for men in all age groups because it concluded  
33      that there is moderate or high certainty that the service has no net  
34      benefit or that the harms outweigh the benefits; and

35   **WHEREAS**, The USPSTF states that the October 2011  
36      recommendation applies to men in the United States that do not  
37      have symptoms of prostate cancer, even though by the time a man  
38      experiences symptoms of prostate cancer, the cancer is generally  
39      too advanced to cure; and

40   **WHEREAS**, The USPSTF states that its new recommendation against  
41      screening applies regardless of race, even though the USPSTF  
42      acknowledges that African-American men have a substantially  
43      higher prostate cancer incidence rate than white men and more than  
44      twice the prostate cancer mortality rate of white men; and

45   **WHEREAS**, The USPSTF issued this recent recommendation without  
46      having a urologist or oncologist, two types of physicians who  
47      specialize in diagnosing and treating patients with prostate cancer,  
48      on the task force; and

1   **WHEREAS**, The USPSTF's new recommendation regarding prostate  
2       cancer screening follows their recommendation in November 2009  
3       against mammograms for women ages 40-49 and against teaching  
4       women to do breast self-exams, which Congress rejected after  
5       public outcry; and

6   **WHEREAS**, The most recently updated study, the Goteborg  
7       Randomized Population-based Prostate Cancer Screening Trial,  
8       found that with screening, deaths from prostate cancer dropped  
9       44% over a 14 year period, compared with men who did not  
10      undergo screening, and that prostate cancer screening efficiency  
11      was similar to other cancers; and

12 **WHEREAS**, The USPSTF recommendation against screening puts into  
13      harm's way men who are most at risk: the underinsured, those who  
14      live in areas where health care is not readily available, those who  
15      have a family history of prostate cancer, and African-American  
16      men, who have a higher incidence rate and higher mortality rate of  
17      prostate cancer than white men; now, therefore,

18  
19       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
20 *State of New Jersey:*

21  
22       1. The Governor and the Legislature of this State respectfully  
23      memorialize the Congress of the United States to seek the  
24      withdrawal of the United States Preventive Services Task Force  
25      recommendation against prostate-specific antigen-based screening  
26      for prostate cancer for men in all age groups.

27  
28       2. Duly authenticated copies of this joint resolution shall be  
29      transmitted to the presiding officers of the United States Congress  
30      and every member of the United States Congress elected from this  
31      State.

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33       3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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38       The Governor and the Legislature respectfully memorialize the  
39      Congress of the United States to seek the withdrawal of the United  
40      States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendation  
41      against prostate-specific antigen-based screening for prostate cancer  
42      for men in all age groups. Prostate cancer is the most commonly  
43      diagnosed non-skin cancer in men and is the second leading cause  
44      of cancer related death in men in the United States. The American  
45      Cancer Society projects that in New Jersey there will be  
46      approximately 7,840 newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer and  
47      1,100 deaths from prostate cancer in 2011.

1       The USPSTF issued the new recommendation against screening  
2 without having a urologist or oncologist, two types of physicians  
3 that specialize in diagnosing and treating prostate cancer, on the  
4 task force. The most recently updated study found that with  
5 screening, deaths from prostate cancer dropped 44% over a 14 year  
6 period.

7       The USPSTF recommendation against screening puts the men  
8 who are most at risk in harm's way: specifically, the underinsured,  
9 those who live in areas where health care is not readily available,  
10 those who have a family history of prostate cancer and African-  
11 American men who have a substantially higher prostate cancer  
12 incidence rate than white men and more than twice the prostate  
13 cancer mortality rate of white men.