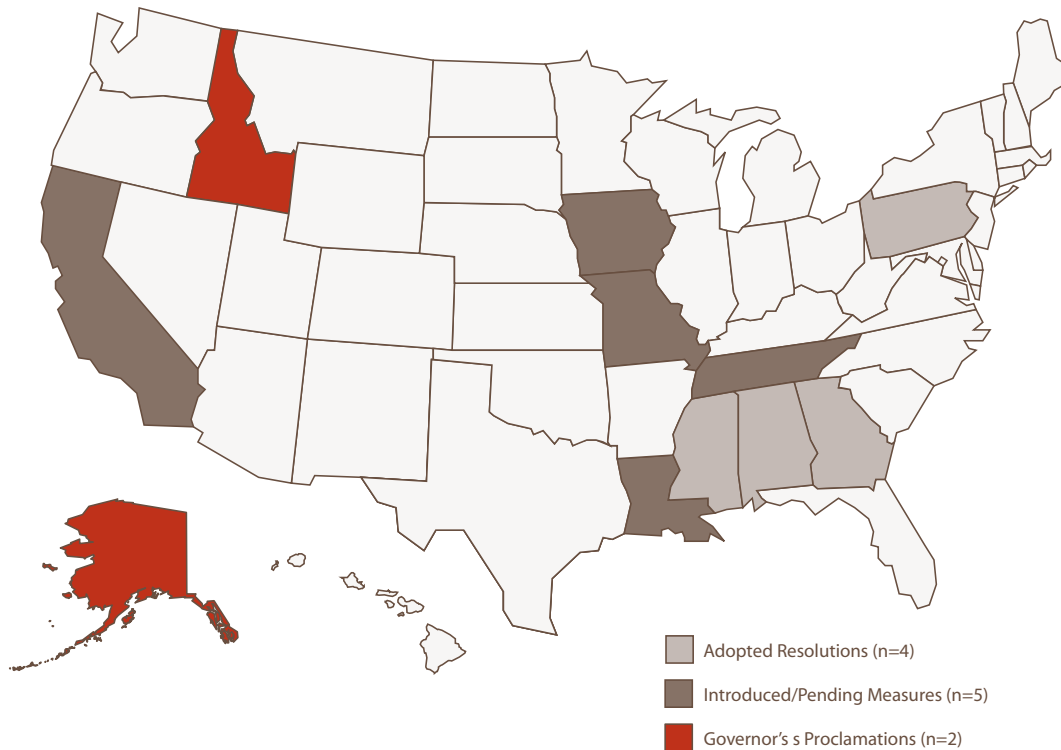


Legislative Data Byte

States with Measures Addressing Kidney Cancer Awareness Month

(as of March 31, 2006)



It is predicted that more than 38,000 new cases of kidney cancer will be diagnosed in the United States during 2006.¹ Kidney cancer develops most often in people over the age of 40 and occurs twice as often in males as in females, but no one knows the exact causes of this disease.² There are more than 100,000 kidney cancer survivors living in the United States.³

Often, kidney cancers are found "incidentally," meaning that the cancer is found during medical tests for some other illness such as gallbladder disease.¹ However, because the symptoms of kidney cancer can often be mistaken for signs of other diseases or ailments, the disease often goes undiagnosed or misdiagnosed until it has metastasized. The first course of treatment for kidney cancer is usually an operation to remove the primary tumor and the diseased kidney.² Other commonly used treatments include immunotherapy, radiation, and chemotherapy.³

Four states—**Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Pennsylvania**—have adopted resolutions declaring March 2006 as Kidney Cancer

Awareness Month. **California, Louisiana and Tennessee** have *introduced* similar measures. A resolution pending approval by the legislature in **Missouri** would designate every March Kidney Cancer Awareness Month and an **Iowa** measure would declare April 2006 as such. Governor's Proclamations declaring March 2006 as Kidney Cancer Awareness Month have been issued in **Alaska and Idaho**.

In addition to the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society, there are several other organizations to promote kidney cancer awareness and treatment, including the National Kidney Cancer Association, the American Kidney Cancer Alliance, and the California Kidney Cancer Foundation.

¹ American Cancer Society - <http://www.cancer.org>

² National Cancer Institute - <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk/kidney/page4>

³ National Kidney Cancer Association - <http://www.curekidneycancer.org/>