

ASSEMBLYWOMAN
Diane Dixon
72ND DISTRICT

AB 511 – ALS

Background

The Golden West Chapter of the ALS Association convened the first California ALS Research Summit in 2013 which brought together:

- neurologists and other clinicians who see and treat patients with ALS and run the clinical trials
- members of scientific community engaged in research related to ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases.

The California ALS Research Summit has occurred annually since 2013, and has become a model for bringing together California's ALS patient care infrastructure and California's robust ALS research community. At this annual meeting, there are a variety of clinical and scientific presentations. The goal of the Summit is to harness the multidisciplinary expertise necessary to improve patient care and accelerate scientific discovery. The ALS Research Network is an outgrowth of the Summit. It was established to better coordinate the collaborative efforts of California's robust scientific infrastructure, including academic labs, biotech's, pharmaceutical companies and treatment clinics. Fundamentally, the purpose of the California ALS Research Network (and Summit) is to increase, expedite and promote ALS and related research done in California; and to foster networking, collaboration and cooperation among investigators, clinicians, clinical trial sites and industry partners to identify, develop therapeutic ideas that can deliver effective treatments, and ultimately cures, for ALS. The work of the CA ALS Research Network can result in a roadmap for ALS research in California. With a clear vision of the opportunity, and a comprehensive gathering of all of the California entities essential to the identification and development of potential therapies, the Network can provide the structure necessary to advance public/private partnerships within the state. The Network will play a crucial role in bringing together researchers, clinicians, biotech's, and industry

partners that can design studies that will lead to effective treatments and cures for the disease.

Problem Being Addressed

Currently underwritten by the philanthropic efforts of the Golden West Chapter, the language of Assembly Bill 511 (Dixon), through the well-established State tax check-off program, will enable the establishment of a stable funding source to support the work of the California ALS Research Network. With the prospect of a more predictable revenue source, the Network and its partners can continue – with confidence – in their quest to bring some of California's brightest minds together to bridge the gap between the researcher's bench and the patient's bedside.

California is home to the country's largest ALS population. California is also home leading ALS clinicians, clinics, biotech's and companies pursuing treatments for ALS. California leads the nation in clinical trial sites. AB 511 will enable the ALS clinical and research community to harness the opportunity to leverage our robust infrastructure and vast expertise that exists with the state.

Which code section is affected?

Section 18881 – 18885 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

Summary

AB 511 creates the California ALS Research Network Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund for California taxpayers to designate when filing their California State income taxes.

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Supporters

Golden West Chapter of the ALS Association