

107TH CONGRESS
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H. CON. RES. 78

Expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be established a
National Minority Health Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 22, 2001

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN (for herself, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TOWNS, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be
established a National Minority Health Month.

Whereas in 2000, the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service announced as a goal the elimination by 2010 of health disparities experienced by racial and ethnic minorities in health access and outcome in 6 areas: infant mortality, cancer screening, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus infection, and immunizations;

Whereas despite notable progress in the overall health of the Nation, there is a crisis of minority health, consisting of continuing disparities in the burden of illness and death experienced by African-Americans, Hispanics, Native

Americans, Alaska Natives, Asians, and Pacific Islanders, compared to the United States population as a whole;

Whereas minorities suffer more than 60,000 excess deaths annually, compared to nonminorities;

Whereas minorities are more likely than nonminorities to die from cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, chemical dependency, diabetes, infant mortality, violence, and, in recent years, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome;

Whereas minority populations are not benefiting equitably from advances in medical research and technology;

Whereas minority populations face substantial cultural, social, and economic barriers to obtaining access to and delivery of health care;

Whereas minorities have made significant contributions to the United States, yet are underrepresented in the health care professions;

Whereas the crisis in minority health results in losses of billions of dollars by the United States because of reduced productivity and increased health care expenditures; and

Whereas the establishment of a National Minority Health Month for the month of April would encourage all health organizations in the United States to host activities to promote healthfulness in minority communities: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) there should be established a National Mi-
4 nority Health Month;

5 (2) the President should issue a proclamation—

1 (A) encouraging all health organizations in
2 the United States to host activities to promote
3 healthfulness in minority communities; and

4 (B) calling upon the people of the United
5 States to observe such a month with appro-
6 priate programs and activities;

7 (3) in conjunction with such a month, the Sec-
8 retary of Health and Human Services should—

9 (A) make information available to the
10 public—

11 (i) on the health problems currently
12 facing minority populations; and

13 (ii) on the careers and contributions
14 of minority health professionals; and

15 (B) present public service announcements
16 on health promotion and disease prevention
17 among minorities in the United States;

18 (4) there is a crisis in minority health, con-
19 sisting of continuing disparities in the burden of ill-
20 ness and death experienced by minorities compared
21 to the population of the United States as a whole
22 and the population of nonminorities;

23 (5) public awareness of the effects of the crisis
24 in minority health should be increased;

1 (6) minority representation in the health care
2 professions should be increased;

3 (7) greater Federal appropriations should be
4 made for activities directed toward improving the
5 health of minorities in the United States, particu-
6 larly health research and education; and

7 (8) targeted health promotion and disease pre-
8 vention initiatives should be presented in a manner
9 that is culturally sensitive to minority populations.

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