

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 320

Designating the week of March 7 through March 13, 2004, as “National Patient Safety Awareness Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2004

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. GREGG, Mr. DODD, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating the week of March 7 through March 13, 2004, as “National Patient Safety Awareness Week”.

Whereas patient safety is an issue of significant importance to the United States;

Whereas 1 in every 5 citizens of the United States has experienced a medical error or has a family member who has experienced a medical error;

Whereas medical errors often have serious and profound consequences;

Whereas it is estimated that injuries from preventable medical errors cost the United States economy between \$17,000,000,000 and \$29,000,000,000 each year;

Whereas more people die annually from medical errors than from automobile accidents, breast cancer, and AIDS;

Whereas increased patient and provider education and collaboration can help avoid medical errors;

Whereas the Institute of Medicine has stated that a “critical component of a comprehensive strategy to improve patient safety is to create an environment that encourages organizations to identify errors, evaluate causes and take appropriate actions to improve performance in the future,” and further, that “a more conducive environment is needed to encourage health care professionals and organizations to identify, analyze, and report errors without threat of litigation and without compromising patients’ legal rights”;

Whereas better systems can be implemented to reduce the factors that lead to medical errors;

Whereas innovative educational and research programs are being conducted by the National Patient Safety Foundation as well as by other public and private entities to develop methods for avoiding preventable injuries and to assess the effectiveness of new techniques to increase patient safety; and

Whereas education of the public on medical errors and the factors that typically lead to medical errors empowers patients to be more effective partners with health care providers in the battle against preventable injuries from medical errors: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) designates the week of March 7 through
2 March 13, 2004, as “National Patient Safety
3 Awareness Week”; and

4 (2) requests that the President issue a procla-
5 mation calling upon the people of the United States
6 to observe the week with appropriate programs and
7 activities.

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