

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 158

Expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Patient Safety
Awareness Week.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2011

Mr. ISRAEL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the goals and ideals of National
Patient Safety Awareness Week.

Whereas patient safety is the freedom from accidental injury
due to medical care or medical errors and is vital to high
quality medical care;

Whereas the landmark 1999 Institute of Medicine study “To
Err is Human” helped launch the patient safety move-
ment by reporting that medical errors lead to the deaths
of as many as 98,000 people each year and that medical
errors relating to hospitalization cost between
\$17,000,000,000 and \$29,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas the Nation has made important progress in raising
patient safety awareness since the release of such study,
including developing reporting systems and establishing
national data collection standards;

Whereas the National Patient Safety Foundation has recognized, endorsed, and encouraged the celebration of Patient Safety Awareness Week since the week was first established in 2002, to bring attention to the issue of medical error and to engage providers, patients, and communities in efforts to improve the safety of healthcare in America;

Whereas, each year since 2003, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has published the National Healthcare Quality Report built on more than 200 measures categorized across four dimensions of quality, including patient safety;

Whereas, in 2004, the World Health Organization formed the World Alliance for Patient Safety which aims to coordinate, disseminate, and accelerate improvements in patient safety worldwide;

Whereas the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act was signed into law on July 29, 2005, to improve patient safety by encouraging voluntary and confidential reporting of events that adversely affect patients;

Whereas there are now 80 Patient Safety Organizations nationwide listed by the Department of Health and Human Services;

Whereas the number of States with medical error reporting systems has nearly doubled since 2000, with 27 States now requiring hospitals to report the occurrence of “never events”, or those adverse events that are serious and largely preventable;

Whereas the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid initiated its hospital-acquired condition policy in 2008, refusing to cover the costs of conditions that were acquired in the

hospital and that could reasonably have been prevented, marking the first use of the payment system to promote patient safety;

Whereas the goal of patient safety is yet to be fully achieved, and still “merits urgent attention”, according to the 2009 National Healthcare Quality Report;

Whereas the 2008 National Healthcare Quality Report found that approximately 1 out of 7 adult hospitalized Medicare patients experienced 1 or more adverse events;

Whereas infections acquired during hospital care are serious patient safety concerns, and among the most common complications of hospital care;

Whereas research has demonstrated that hospital-acquired infections and medical errors can be reduced and that lives can be saved through the appropriate timing of antibiotic delivery among surgical patients, the proper placement of central venous catheters, the establishment of a culture of safety, and other practical interventions, such as the use of checklists;

Whereas healthcare providers are committed to a collaborative, meaningful, long-term approach to ensure greater patient safety in the delivery of healthcare in our Nation and to continually advancing efforts to improve patient safety through the development and promotion of communication tools for safer healthcare and the use of quality measures based on evidence-based guidelines;

Whereas the goals and ideals of Patient Safety Awareness Week are to focus attention on the need to improve the safety of medical care, recognize the safety innovations generated by frontline medical staff, celebrate patient safety successes, encourage the medical community to

adopt best practices that increase patient safety, encourage patients to learn approaches to improve the safety of their healthcare, promote research to identify effective solutions to patient safety-related problems, and to acknowledge those individuals who have dedicated their time and talent to help promote patient safety; and

Whereas the patient safety community recognizes and celebrates National Patient Safety Awareness Week during the second week in March every calendar year: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of National
3 Patient Safety Awareness Week;

4 (2) encourages the President to issue a procla-
5 mation in support of the goals and ideals of Na-
6 tional Patient Safety Awareness Week;

7 (3) encourages States, localities territories, and
8 possessions of the United States to support the goals
9 and ideals of National Patient Safety Awareness
10 Week by issuing proclamations designating National
11 Patient Safety Awareness Week;

12 (4) encourages the continuation and accelera-
13 tion of private sector efforts to take immediate steps
14 to improve patient safety and recognizes the need
15 for action in the public sector to complement these
16 efforts; and

1 (5) recognizes and reaffirms the Nation's com-
2 mitment to promoting patient safety through edu-
3 cation programs, supporting research, and expand-
4 ing access to safe medical treatment.

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