

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 289

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the National Institute of Dental Research.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 1998

Mr. PACKARD (for himself, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. LINDER, Mr. NORWOOD, and Mr. PORTER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the National Institute of Dental Research.

Whereas the National Institute of Dental Research was established on June 24, 1948, by the National Dental Research Act as the third Institute of the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas the Act entrusted the Institute with a leadership role designed to improve and promote the dental health of the American people through research on the causes and prevention of dental diseases;

Whereas the Institute supports biomedical and behavioral research in its laboratories and in public, private, and academic research centers throughout the Nation;

Whereas the Institute influences research activities and the promotion of oral health worldwide through its sponsorship of and its participation in international meetings, and by organizing exchanges of dental research investigators and of scientific information;

Whereas the Institute disseminates science-based information and research findings about craniofacial, oral, and dental diseases to other Federal agencies, Congress, health professionals, consumer groups, industry, and the public;

Whereas the Institute is the Nation's primary source of funding for the research, training, and career development of dental, oral, and craniofacial scientists;

Whereas the Institute maximizes its research investment by fostering collaborations and partnerships with other Government agencies, industry, regulatory bodies, and other partners to create opportunities to speed the translation of scientific discovery to clinical practice;

Whereas the Institute gives special attention to the health needs of special populations, such as children, minorities, women, the elderly, the underprivileged, and the disabled;

Whereas the Institute works closely with allied associations, industry, academic health professionals, and consumer groups in promoting the transfer of research findings to dental practitioners and other health professionals and engages in comprehensive oral health promotion and disease prevention activities of direct benefit to the public;

Whereas research supported by the Institute established that dental caries and periodontal diseases are bacterial infections, and these findings led to further research to devise prevention, diagnosis, and treatment strategies that have caused a dramatic improvement in the oral health of the

American people and the savings of \$4,000,000,000 in dental expenses each year;

Whereas the Institute, in completing the Grand Rapids water fluoridation project, confirmed the efficacy of fluoride for the reduction of dental caries and introduced fluoridation and its benefits to the world;

Whereas while the Institute continues to support research to further understand and prevent dental caries and periodontal diseases and other conditions that lead to tooth loss, the Institute has broadened its focus to embrace the entire craniofacial-oral-dental complex; critical areas include other infectious diseases, such as hepatitis and HIV/AIDS; inherited diseases and disorders such as disfiguring craniofacial birth defects; neoplastic diseases such as oral cancers; chronic and disabling diseases such as osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, and the temporomandibular disorders; auto-immune diseases such as Sjögren's syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes; tissue repair and regeneration; and the interactive roles of behavioral, sociological, economic, environmental, genetic, and other biological factors involved in craniofacial-oral-dental diseases; and

Whereas the National Institute of Dental Research, in being instrumental in the dramatic decline of oral and dental diseases and in addressing other critical, oral, and systemic diseases that affect the craniofacial-oral-dental complex, is worthy of special commemoration by the Congress: Now, therefore, be it

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

1 (1) commemorates the creation of the National
2 Institute of Dental Research, through the National
3 Dental Research Act, and its significant national
4 leadership role;

5 (2) reaffirms its support of the National Dental
6 Research Act and its entrustment of the Institute
7 with important responsibilities that include conduct-
8 ing and fostering research on the causes, prevention,
9 methods of diagnosis, and treatment of dental dis-
10 eases and conditions; and

11 (3) recognizes the many multidisciplinary sci-
12 entists, professional organizations, and patient advo-
13 cacy groups for their contributions to the fulfillment
14 of the goals supported by the Institute.

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