

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

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. CLY-BURN, 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;

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;

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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