

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 61

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should recognize board certifications from the American Association of Physician Specialists, Inc., for purposes of the payment of special pay by the Veterans Health Administration.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 21, 2001

Mr. HUTCHINSON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should recognize board certifications from the American Association of Physician Specialists, Inc., for purposes of the payment of special pay by the Veterans Health Administration.

Whereas the United States has, in the course of its history, fought in many wars and conflicts to defend freedom and protect the interests of the Nation;

Whereas millions of men and women have served the Nation in times of need as members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the service of veterans has been of vital importance to the Nation and the sacrifices made by veterans and

their families should not be forgotten with the passage of time;

Whereas the obligation of the Nation to provide the best health care benefits to veterans and their families takes precedence over all else;

Whereas veterans deserve comprehensive and high-quality health care services;

Whereas the Secretary of Veterans Affairs only recognizes board certifications of allopathic physicians from specialty boards that are members of the American Board of Medical Specialties and board certifications of osteopathic physicians from specialty boards recognized by the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists;

Whereas physicians not certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists are not eligible for special pay for board certification;

Whereas there are other nationally recognized organizations that certify physicians for practice in areas of specialty;

Whereas the failure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recognize board certifications from other nationally recognized organizations may limit the pool of qualified physicians from which the Department of Veterans Affairs can hire; and

Whereas not recognizing board certifications of other nationally recognized organizations, such as the American Association of Physician Specialists, Inc., may limit the ability of veterans to receive the highest quality health care: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the
- 2 Secretary of Veterans Affairs should, for the purposes of

1 the payment of special pay by the Veterans Health Admin-
2 istration, recognize board certifications from the American
3 Association of Physician Specialists, Inc., to the same ex-
4 tent as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs recognizes board
5 certifications from the American Board of Medical Spe-
6 cialties and the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists.

○