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H. CON. RES. 208

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 17, 2003

Received and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
Pensions

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting National Men's Health Week.

Whereas, despite the advances in medical technology and research, men continue to live an average of six years less than women, and African-American men have the lowest life expectancy;

Whereas all ten of the ten leading causes of death, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, affect men more than women;

Whereas between ages 45–54, men are three times more likely than women to die of heart attacks;

Whereas men die of heart disease at almost twice the rate of women;

Whereas men die of cancer at almost one and a half times the rate of women;

Whereas testicular cancer is one of the most common cancers in men aged 15–34, and when detected early, has an 87 percent survival rate;

Whereas the number of cases of colon cancer among men will reach over 72,000 in 2003, and over one-third will die from the disease;

Whereas the likelihood that a man will develop prostate cancer is 1 in 6;

Whereas the number of men contracting prostate cancer will reach over 220,000 in 2003, and almost 29,000 will die from the disease;

Whereas African-American men in the United States have the highest incidence in the world of prostate cancer;

Whereas significant numbers of male-related health problems, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, infertility, and colon cancer, could be detected and treated if men's awareness of these problems was more pervasive;

Whereas more than one-half the elderly widows now living in poverty were not poor before the death of their husbands, and by age 100 women outnumber men 8 to 1;

Whereas educating both the public and health care providers about the importance of early detection of male health problems will result in reducing rates of mortality for these diseases;

Whereas appropriate use of tests such as Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) exams, blood pressure screens, and cholesterol screens, in conjunction with clinical examination and self-testing for problems such as testicular cancer, can result in the detection of many of these problems in their early stages and increases in the survival rates to nearly 100 percent;

Whereas women are 100 percent more likely to visit the doctor for annual examinations and preventive services than men;

Whereas many men are reluctant to visit their health center or physician for regular screening examinations of male related problems for a variety of reasons including fear, lack of health insurance, lack of information, and cost factors;

Whereas National Men's Health Week was established by Congress in and first celebrated in 1994 and urged men and their families to engage in appropriate health behaviors, and the resulting increased awareness has improved health-related education and helped prevent illness;

Whereas the Governors of over 45 States issue proclamations declaring Men's Health Week in their States;

Whereas, since 1994, National Men's Health Week has been celebrated each June by dozens of corporations, public health departments, health care entities, churches, and community organizations, as well as many States, cities, and localities throughout the Nation, that promote health awareness events focused on men and family;

Whereas the National Men's Health Week web site has been established at www.menshealthweek.org and features

