

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. RES. 150

Recognizing the goals and ideals of a National Time Out Day to support the universal protocol, developed by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, for preventing errors in the operating room, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2005

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

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the goals and ideals of a National Time Out Day to support the universal protocol, developed by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, for preventing errors in the operating room, and for other purposes.

Whereas, according to an Institute of Medicine report entitled “To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System”, published in 2000, between 44,000 and 98,000 hospitalized individuals in the United States die each year due to medical errors, and an untold thousands more suffer injury or illness as a result of preventable errors;

Whereas there are more than 40,000,000 inpatient surgery procedures and 31,000,000 outpatient surgery procedures performed annually in the United States;

Whereas for the first time, nurses, surgeons, and hospitals throughout the country are being required by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations to adopt a common set of operating room procedures in order to help curb the alarming number of deaths and injuries due to medical errors;

Whereas the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations has developed a universal protocol which calls for surgical teams to call a “time out” before surgeries begin in order to verify the patient’s identity, the procedure to be performed, and the site of the procedure, and this protocol has been endorsed by over 50 national healthcare organizations;

Whereas 4,579 accredited hospitals, 1,261 ambulatory care facilities, and 131 accredited office-based surgery centers were required by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations to adopt the universal protocol effective July 1, 2004;

Whereas the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses has created an Internet website and distributed 55,000 tool kits to healthcare professionals throughout the country to assist them in implementing the universal protocol; and

Whereas the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Hospital Association, and the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management are celebrating National Time Out Day on June 22, 2005, to support the universal protocol of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare

Organization for preventing errors in the operating room:  
Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2           (1) recognizes the goals and ideals of a Na-  
3       tional Time Out Day, as designated by the Associa-  
4       tion of periOperative Registered Nurses and en-  
5       dorsed by the American College of Surgeons, the  
6       American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American  
7       Hospital Association, and the American Society for  
8       Healthcare Risk Management, to support a universal  
9       protocol for preventing errors in the operating room  
10      by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of  
11      Healthcare Organizations; and

12           (2) congratulates perioperative nurses and rep-  
13      resentatives of surgical teams for working together  
14      to reduce medical errors and to ensure the improved  
15      health and safety of surgical patients.

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