

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 753

Recognizing that the occurrence of prostate cancer in African-American men has reached epidemic proportions and urging Federal agencies to address that health crisis by supporting education, awareness outreach, and research specifically focused on how prostate cancer affects African-American men.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 2012

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

RESOLUTION

Recognizing that the occurrence of prostate cancer in African-American men has reached epidemic proportions and urging Federal agencies to address that health crisis by supporting education, awareness outreach, and research specifically focused on how prostate cancer affects African-American men.

Whereas the incidence of prostate cancer in African-American men is more than one-and-a-half times higher than in any other racial or ethnic group in the United States;

Whereas African-American men have the highest mortality rate of any ethnic and racial group in the United States, dying at a rate that is approximately two-and-a-half times higher than other ethnic and racial groups;

Whereas that rate of mortality represents the largest disparity of mortality rates in any of the major cancers;

Whereas prostate cancer can be cured with early detection and the proper treatment, regardless of the ethnic or racial group of the cancer patient;

Whereas African-Americans are more likely to be diagnosed at an earlier age and at a later stage of cancer progression than all other ethnic and racial groups, leading to lower cure rates and lower chances of survival;

Whereas for patients diagnosed early, studies show a 5-year survival rate of nearly 100 percent, but the survival rate drops significantly to 28 percent for patients diagnosed in late stages; and

Whereas recent genomics research has increased the ability to identify men at high risk for aggressive prostate cancer: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes that prostate cancer has created
3 a health crisis for African-American men;

4 (2) recognizes the importance of health coverage and access to care, as well as promoting informed decisionmaking between men and their doctors, taking into consideration the known risks and
6 potential benefits of screening and treatment options
7 for prostate cancer;

10 (3) urges Federal agencies to support—

11 (A) research to address and attempt to end
12 the health crisis created by prostate cancer;

1 (B) efforts relating to education, aware-
2 ness, and early detection at the grassroots level
3 to end that health crisis; and

4 (C) the Office of Minority Health of the
5 Department of Health and Human Services in
6 focusing on improving health and healthcare
7 outcomes for African-Americans at an elevated
8 risk of prostate cancer; and

9 (4) urges investment by Federal agencies in re-
10 search focusing on the improvement of early detec-
11 tion and treatment of prostate cancer, such as the
12 use of—

13 (A) biomarkers to accurately distinguish
14 indolent forms of prostate cancer from lethal
15 forms; and

16 (B) advanced imaging tools to ensure the
17 best level of individualized patient care.

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