

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **79th General Assembly**  
3 **Regular Session, 1993**  
4 **By: Representatives Flanagin, Goodwin & Cunningham**

**H.R.**

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES  
9 TO EMPHASIZE THE EDUCATION OF PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS BY  
10 REALLOCATING RESOURCES TO THIS EFFORT.

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12 **Subtitle**

13 REQUESTING UAMS TO EMPHASIZE THE EDUCATION OF PRIMARY CARE  
14 PHYSICIANS.

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16 WHEREAS, in many areas of the State, Arkansas\_s citizens suffer from  
17 inadequate access to primary health care; for example, fifty-eight (58)  
18 counties in the State are federally designated as having a shortage of primary  
19 care physicians;

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21 WHEREAS, the lure of high incomes and great prestige causes many medical  
22 students to train for subspecialties rather than family practice or other  
23 primary care practices, such as internal medicine, pediatrics, or obstetrics/  
24 gynecology;

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26 WHEREAS, high technology and specialty care costs enormous sums and are  
27 most often focused on curing acute or chronic illnesses rather than on  
28 preventing such conditions;

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30 WHEREAS, a high infant mortality rate and increasing populations of  
31 chronically ill and elderly individuals render imperative the State\_s need for  
32 primary care physicians;

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34 WHEREAS, the demand for primary care practitioners continues to grow  
35 while there has been a steady decline in the number of medical school

1 graduates entering family practice and other primary care practices;

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3         WHEREAS, neighboring states have developed incentive programs for  
4 primary care physicians that make it difficult to retain those trained in  
5 Arkansas;

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7         WHEREAS, Arkansas citizens must be guaranteed access to primary care in  
8 order to contain costs and ensure adequate health care;

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10 NOW THEREFORE,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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14         THAT the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is requested to  
15 emphasize the education of primary care physicians, by reallocating resources  
16 to this effort. In this regard, the university is further requested to (i)  
17 develop, if feasible, a mechanism for giving priority admissions to  
18 individuals expressing an interest in family practice and other primary care  
19 specialties such as primary care internal medicine, primary care pediatrics,  
20 and primary care obstetrics/gynecology; (ii) actively recruit students from  
21 rural and under served areas of the State at the earliest possible time, for  
22 example, during high school; (iii) enhance the prestige of family practice and  
23 other primary care specialties; (iv) provide opportunities for appropriate  
24 student interaction with primary care practitioners during the first as well  
25 as the subsequent years of medical education and (v) establish goals, in  
26 cooperation with the Area Health Education Centers, for increasing the number  
27 of family practitioners and other primary care physicians in the State  
28 particularly in under served and rural areas.

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30         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Arkansas for Medical  
31 Sciences shall report to the Joint Interim Committee on Public Health, Welfare  
32 and Labor on the development of programs in accordance with this resolution by  
33 January 1, 1994.

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