

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

H.R.

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 REQUESTING THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH,
9 WELFARE AND LABOR TO STUDY THE VARIOUS INITIATIVES
10 DEVELOPED TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE IN RURAL AREAS
11 AND TO MONITOR PROGRAMS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR
12 MEDICAL SCIENCES DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF
13 PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS IN THE STATE.

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15 **Subtitle**

16 REQUESTING PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE VARIOUS
17 INITIATIVES DEVELOPED TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE IN
18 RURAL AREAS.

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20 WHEREAS, Arkansas_s citizens suffer from inadequate access to primary
21 health care in many areas of the state, especially in rural areas;

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23 WHEREAS, as in other states, Arkansas has soaring health care costs, as
24 demonstrated by the Medicaid crisis in 1992, which impede sufficient access to
25 quality health care;

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27 WHEREAS, the demand for family practice physicians and other primary
28 care practitioners, such as general internists, pediatricians, and
29 obstetricians/gynecologists, continues to grow while economic and societal
30 factors increase the attractiveness of highly paid subspecialties;

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32 WHEREAS, due to the decreasing number of medical school graduates
33 entering family practice, a statewide shortage of three hundred (300) family
34 practice physicians is predicted by the year 2000, which will further compound
35 health care access problems;

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WHEREAS, the future of the State is in jeopardy if access to primary health care is not dramatically enhanced in all underserved areas of the State; and

WHEREAS, other states have implemented innovative programs and incentives to combat the problem of health care access and these programs could serve as models for the State of Arkansas;

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the Joint Interim Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor is requested to study the various initiatives to improve access to health care in rural areas, to monitor programs developed by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences designed to increase the number of primary care physicians in the state and to study similar programs in other states.

