

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-173

2
3 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH
4 ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REFER TO THE HOUSE AND
5 SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND
6 LABOR A STUDY OF THE NEED FOR A SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY AT
7 THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES.

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9 WHEREAS, access to dental care continues to be a serious problem across Arkansas; and

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11 WHEREAS, a report by the United States Surgeon General describes health care as the
12 "silent epidemic of oral disease affecting our most vulnerable citizens"; and

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14 WHEREAS, dental disease leads not only to tooth loss, but may contribute to coronary
15 heart disease, diabetes, pre-term low birth-weight babies, and the disruption of a child's ability to
16 learn; and

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18 WHEREAS, Arkansas does not have an in-state dentistry education program, but instead
19 pays other states to educate dentists who will practice in Arkansas,

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21 NOW THEREFORE,

22 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH
23 ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

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25 THAT the House and Senate Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
26 study the need for a school of dentistry at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

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28 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that the study proposed in this Interim Study Proposal
29 shall :

30 (1) Include a comparison of the number of dentists and other dental health care
31 personnel in Arkansas to comparable states, and project future needs in Arkansas;

32 (2) Describe access by Arkansans to programs and colleges that educate dentists
33 and other dental health care personnel;

1 (3) Recommend future actions to assure an adequate dental health care workforce
2 for Arkansas; and

3 (4) Provide regular reports to the interim committees and a final report not later
4 than September 15, 2008.

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6 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that the House and Senate Interim Committees on Public
7 Health, Welfare and Labor work in conjunction with the Area Health Education Centers Program
8 of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to study the adequacy of the dental health care
9 workforce in Arkansas.

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11 Respectfully submitted,

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14 Representative Clark Hall

Representative Billy Gaskill

15 District 13

District 41