

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-239

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3 REQUESTING THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
4 HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR TO STUDY STROKE WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS
5 ON THE CONTRIBUTING RISK FACTOR OF HYPERTENSION.
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7 WHEREAS, the effects of stroke on the health of Arkansas's citizens are
8 sadly misunderstood; and
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10 WHEREAS, every year over one thousand eight hundred (1,800) Arkansas
11 citizens die from strokes, while many more suffer a stroke; and
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13 WHEREAS, Arkansas is one of the unhealthiest states in the nation and
14 this is particularly true when it comes to factors known to contribute to
15 cardiovascular disease and stroke. Stroke accounts for nearly eight percent
16 (8%) of all deaths in the state according to the latest statistics from 2003;
17 and
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19 WHEREAS, in Arkansas the prevalence of stroke is overwhelming. In 2006
20 there were over eight thousand four hundred (8,400) stroke-related
21 hospitalizations in our state with a staggering total hospital cost of one
22 hundred seventy-one million dollars (\$171,000,000). Today some sixty-three
23 thousand (63,000) Arkansas citizens are currently living with the effects of
24 a stroke; and
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26 WHEREAS, nationally, some six hundred thousand (600,000) Americans will
27 suffer a stroke and one hundred sixty thousand (160,000) will die within the
28 following twelve (12) months, making stroke the third leading cause of death
29 in our nation. Beyond the human toll, the economic impact is huge, with
30 direct and indirect costs totaling over fifty billion dollars
31 (\$50,000,000,000) annually; and
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33 WHEREAS, Arkansas has the third highest mortality rate for stroke in
34 the nation. While this ranking indicates that Arkansas has improved from
35 previously having the highest stroke mortality rate in the nation, Arkansans
36 still have a huge task before them; and

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WHEREAS, hypertension is a major risk factor for stroke and the state of Arkansas has a high percentage of individuals with this risk factor. Therefore, conducting an interim study on stroke with a particular focus on the contributing risk factor of hypertension is imperative for the state of Arkansas,

NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House Interim Committee On Public Health, Welfare And Labor and the Senate Interim Committee On Public Health, Welfare And Labor study stroke with a particular focus on the contributing risk factor of hypertension.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Sandra Prater
District 42

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