

1 State of Arkansas
2 82nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1999

SR 8

4
5 By: Senator Bradford

6
7
8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 "REQUESTING THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON
10 PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR CONDUCT A STUDY TO
11 EVALUATE THE HEALTH NEEDS OF THE ARKANSANS LIVING WITH
12 HIV AND AIDS AND TO DETERMINE HOW THE STATE MAY ASSIST
13 IN MEETING THOSE NEEDS. "

14
15 **Subtitle**

16 "REQUESTING A STUDY TO EVALUATE THE
17 HEALTH NEEDS OF THE ARKANSANS LIVING
18 WITH HIV AND AIDS AND TO DETERMINE HOW
19 THE STATE MAY ASSIST IN MEETING THOSE
20 NEEDS. "

21
22
23 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SECOND GENERAL
24 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

25
26 WHEREAS, there are over four thousand two hundred seven (4,207) persons
27 in the State of Arkansas who have suffered from HIV and AIDS. Of that number
28 two thousand five hundred forty (2,540) meet the AIDS case definition set
29 forth by the Department of Health. Of the two thousand five hundred forty
30 (2,540) persons with AIDS, one thousand two hundred thirty one, (1,231), forty
31 eight percent (48%) have died of AIDS.

32
33 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas does not contribute any state funding for
34 the purpose of patient care, including medication payment assistance,
35 physician care payment assistance, dental care payment assistance, mental
36 health counseling payment assistance, transportation assistance for persons

1 living with HIV/AIDS.

2

3 WHEREAS, AIDS care in the State of Arkansas is very expensive and lacks
4 coordination between the federal programs operated through the Department of
5 Health and the Medicaid program.

6

7 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas should make a good faith effort to
8 contribute to the care of Arkansans with HIV/AIDS in order to maintain good
9 status with the federal government. The federal government and pharmaceutical
10 companies are currently paying for the treatment of persons in Arkansas
11 struggling to live with HIV/AIDS.

12

13 NOW, THEREFORE,

14 BE IT PROPOSED:

15

16 SECTION 1. The House and Senate Interim Committees on Public Health,
17 Welfare, and Labor are requested to make a study to evaluate that consistent
18 medical treatment and medication adherence contributes to the extension and
19 quality of life of persons with HIV/AIDS which lessens the burden of the
20 taxpayers of the State of Arkansas. The committees are further requested to
21 conduct a review that persons receiving medical and supportive services spend
22 fewer days in the hospital and spend less time in nursing homes.

23

24 SECTION 2. A coordinated study should be conducted by the General
25 Assembly to determine the least expensive way in which all persons suffering
26 from HIV/AIDS in Arkansas can receive good medical and supportive treatment
27 through various medically approved methods of care. That all possible methods
28 should be studied for effectiveness, including but not limited to, a high
29 insurance risk pool, Medicaid waiver, and direct state monies placed into the
30 AIDS Drug Assistance Program and other direct services to people living with
31 HIV/AIDS.

32

33

34

35

36