

1 State of Arkansas

2 83rd General Assembly

3 Regular Session, 2001

HCR 1012

4
5 By: Representatives Judy, T. Steele, Agee, Biggs, Bookout, Carson, Cowling, Dees, J. Elliott, Green,
6 Lendall, McMellon, Prater, Salmon, W. Walker, White
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9 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

10 ENDORSING THE NATIONAL PROCLAMATION OF NATIONAL HEART
11 FAILURE AWARENESS WEEK.
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14 **Subtitle**

15 ENDORSING THE NATIONAL PROCLAMATION OF
16 NATIONAL HEART FAILURE AWARENESS WEEK.
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20 WHEREAS, congestive heart failure is a major United States public health
21 problem that impacts five million Americans or 1.5% of the United States
22 population; and

23 WHEREAS, each year there are 550,000 new cases of congestive heart
24 failure diagnosed, with 200,000 deaths and one million hospitalizations per
25 year due to the disease; and

26 WHEREAS, congestive heart failure is the leading cause of
27 hospitalization in patients over the age of sixty-five; and

28 WHEREAS, congestive heart failure patients with the most severe symptoms
29 have approximately a fifty percent one-year survival rate and half of patients
30 with even mild disease die within five years; and

31 WHEREAS, the vast majority of patients, particularly women, are not
32 diagnosed until late in the course of the disease; and

33 WHEREAS, a conservative estimate of annual United States health
34 expenditures for congestive heart failure is in excess of ten billion dollars
35 with the largest portion, eight billion dollars, of this expenditure for the
36 cost of hospitalizations; and

1 WHEREAS, although current treatment guidelines recommend that
2 approximately eighty percent of heart failure patients receive ACE inhibitors
3 in combination with beta blockers to extend life and reduce costly
4 hospitalization but only forty-five percent of patients are treated with ACE
5 inhibitors and twenty percent of patients receive beta blockers; and

6 WHEREAS, the primary goals of "National Heart Failure Awareness Week"
7 are: (1) to promote research related to all aspects of heart failure and
8 provide a forum for presentation of that research; (2) to educate heart
9 failure caregivers and patients through programs, publications, and other
10 media allowing for more effective treatment and diagnosis of heart failure;
11 and (3) to enhance the quality and duration of life for those with heart
12 failure,

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14 NOW THEREFORE,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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18 That the Department of Health is requested to transmit the treatment
19 guidelines for congestive heart failure published by the Heart Failure Society
20 of America, Inc. to the appropriate health care professionals in the state
21 while urging their adoption of these guidelines in their practice.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that physicians and payers should be encouraged
23 to administer and provide reimbursement for echocardiograms to all patients
24 over fifty years of age with a history of heart disease and begin appropriate
25 treatment as early as possible.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that physicians and payers should be encouraged
27 to prescribe or provide reimbursement for the standard of care for congestive
28 heart failure, including FDA approved beta blockers and ACE inhibitors as well
29 as other therapies that have been shown to reduce the mortality and morbidity
30 associated with congestive heart failure.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives and the Senate
32 endorse the inclusion of the latest treatment advances for congestive heart
33 failure, including ACE inhibitor and beta blocker therapies in the curriculum
34 of medical schools in the state.