

1 State of Arkansas

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4  
5 By: Representatives Carson, *Bledsoe, Borhauer, Dees, J. Elliott, Green, Judy, Salmon, Shoffner, W.*  
6 *Walker*

7 By: Senators Gullett, *Horn*  
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## 10 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

11 EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE OF  
12 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ARKANSAS IN SUPPORT OF A  
13 WOMEN'S HEALTH PLATFORM THAT RECOGNIZES SERIOUS  
14 INEQUITIES IN THE HEALTH PREVENTION AND TREATMENT  
15 OF WOMEN, AND CALLS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THESE  
16 INEQUITIES TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH STATUS OF WOMEN  
17 IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.  
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### 20 **Subtitle**

21 EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE AND  
22 SENATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
23 ARKANSAS IN SUPPORT OF A WOMEN'S HEALTH  
24 PLATFORM.  
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27 WHEREAS, the state agencies should increase their support for women's  
28 health programs to make a significant difference in improving the status of  
29 women's health; and  
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31 WHEREAS, women are different, metabolically, hormonally, and  
32 physiologically from men and have different patterns of health and disease  
33 and some diseases are more common in women than in men; and  
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35 WHEREAS, women are more likely to suffer from chronic diseases and more  
36 than one (1) in five (5) women have some form of cardiovascular disease and

1 one (1) in two (2) women will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in her  
2 lifetime; and

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4 WHEREAS, women are three (3) times more likely to develop rheumatoid  
5 arthritis and two (2) to three (3) times more likely to suffer from  
6 depression; and

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8 WHEREAS, women are less often referred for diagnostic tests and less  
9 often treated for heart disease as compared to men; and

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11 WHEREAS, women, if they are smokers, are twenty percent (20%) to  
12 seventy percent (70%) more likely to develop lung cancer and ten (10) times  
13 more likely than men to contract human immunodeficiency virus during  
14 unprotected sex; and

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16 WHEREAS, women outnumber men three (3) to one (1) in long-term care  
17 facilities; and

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19 WHEREAS, women are much more likely to provide health care to family  
20 members and make health care decisions and spend two (2) of every three (3)  
21 health care dollars; and

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23 WHEREAS, there is abundant evidence that women are under-treated  
24 compared to men; and

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26 WHEREAS, there is abundant evidence that women are under-represented in  
27 women's health studies; and

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29 WHEREAS, although there has been some national attention on women's  
30 health care issues, and some legislative activity by the Congress on access  
31 issues, there remains little change in vitally important preventive care and  
32 treatment issues; and

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34 WHEREAS, in a recent survey of voters, almost eighty percent (80%) of  
35 women and sixty percent (60%) of men favored a Women's Health Care Platform  
36 which supports relevant care, relevant research and relevant education for

1 women; and

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3 WHEREAS, nine (9) out of ten (10) men and women agree that women have  
4 the right to access quality treatment and access to the latest technologies  
5 and appropriate diagnostic tests,

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7 NOW THEREFORE,

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

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11 That every state agency and state-chartered institution of learning or  
12 recipient of state grants or funding should take appropriate action to  
13 achieve improved and equal access for women to quality health care,  
14 including:

15 (1) Provide women equal access to quality health care, including  
16 state-of-the-art medical advances and technology;

17 (2) Increase the number of women covered by comprehensive health care  
18 insurance including primary and preventive health care for all women;

19 (3) Prevent serious health problems by timely diagnosis and treatment  
20 programs;

21 (4) Promote strategies to increase patient access to recommended  
22 diagnostic and screening tests, preventive health regimens and recommended  
23 treatments;

24 (5) Encourage unimpeded access to women's specialty health providers;

25 (6) Create and promote public/private partnerships to create programs  
26 designed to improve the scope and quality of women's health care;

27 (7) Improve communications between providers and patients;

28 (8) Continue to expand participation of women in clinical trials;

29 (9) Increase government and private research on women's health issues  
30 and the differences between men and women and how they impact quality health  
31 care;

32 (10) Conduct more health outcomes research to demonstrate the value of  
33 women's health care interventions and preventive health measures in both the  
34 long and short-term;

35 (11) Expand medical and nursing school curricula in the area of  
36 women's health; educate about gender biology;

(12) Support public education campaigns to increase women's awareness about their unique health risks, how to negotiate the complexities of today's health care system and demand/obtain the best care available;

(13) Conduct public health campaigns via state and local departments of public health with private sector partners to focus on key women's preventive health issues;

(14) Urge the establishment of permanent offices of women's health within state government to raise awareness of women's special health care needs and advocate initiatives to address them;

(15) Foster development and dissemination of publicly available information on the quality of health care and health outcomes that improve women's ability to choose the best women's health care plan; and

(16) Expand state screening programs targeted at lower-income women to include a full range of known risk factors.

That the House and Senate of the Eighty-Third General Assembly of Arkansas commend the organization Women in Government for its leadership and enterprise in bringing to Arkansas the appropriate urgency of need and meaningful steps that can be taken to attain the improved and equal access for women to quality health care, technologies and treatments; education of researchers about gender differences; and unimpeded access to women's health providers.

/s/ Carson, et al.