

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003

HCR 1017

4  
5 By: Representative Judy

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8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE OF  
10 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ARKANSAS CONCERNING THE  
11 DANGERS POSED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF ARKANSANS  
12 BY THE DISEASE OF SEVERE SEPSIS.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE AND  
16 SENATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
17 ARKANSAS CONCERNING THE DANGERS POSED TO  
18 THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF ARKANSANS BY THE  
19 DISEASE OF SEVERE SEPSIS.

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22 WHEREAS, sepsis with acute organ dysfunction, also known as severe  
23 sepsis, is the number one cause of death in noncoronary intensive care units  
24 with mortality rates ranging from twenty-eight percent (28%) to more than  
25 fifty percent (50%); and

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27 WHEREAS, more than seven hundred fifty thousand (750,000) Americans  
28 develop severe sepsis each year, more than two thousand (2,000) new cases  
29 each day; and

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31 WHEREAS, in sepsis, an individual's blood pressure drops precipitously,  
32 resulting in shock and failure of major organ systems such as the kidneys,  
33 liver, lungs, and central nervous system; and

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35 WHEREAS, the number of cases is expected to increase due to increased  
36 awareness and sensitivity for the diagnosis of sepsis, the number of patients



1 with compromised immune systems, the increasing use of invasive medical  
2 procedures, the number of resistant microorganisms, and the growth of the  
3 elderly population; and

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5 WHEREAS, the science of sepsis is better understood and the provider  
6 community now realizes that it is more than simple inflammation in response  
7 to bacterial infection; and

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9 WHEREAS, currently only one (1) treatment for severe sepsis has been by  
10 approved the United States Federal Drug Administration; however, that  
11 treatment is underused due to a lack of awareness among health care providers  
12 and the public and due to high costs that result from the lack of proper  
13 coding and reimbursement through private and public insurance programs; and

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15 WHEREAS, severe sepsis is an expensive, common and frequently fatal  
16 disease, if left untreated,

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18 NOW THEREFORE,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH  
20 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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22 That the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the Department  
23 of Health should collect data concerning the incidence of severe sepsis in  
24 medical facilities licensed in this state, develop an information and  
25 dissemination program to help prevent the occurrence of the disease in  
26 patients in these facilities, and ensure access to improved treatments for  
27 sepsis through education of health care providers, patients, and the public  
28 when funds are available.

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be transmitted to the  
31 Chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, the Director  
32 of the Department of Health, and the Arkansas Congressional Delegation.