

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

HR 1022

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5 By: Representative Goss
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8 HOUSE RESOLUTION

9 RECOGNIZING THE SERIOUS DANGERS TO PUBLIC HEALTH
10 POSED BY DISPARITIES IN HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE
11 SERVICES AMONG AFRICAN-AMERICANS, HISPANICS, AND
12 NATIVE AMERICANS.

13 Subtitle

14 RECOGNIZING THE SERIOUS DANGERS TO
15 PUBLIC HEALTH POSED BY DISPARITIES IN
16 HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES AMONG
17 MINORITIES.
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21 WHEREAS, the surgeon General of the Public Health Service announced as
22 a goal the elimination by 2010 of health disparities experienced by racial
23 and ethnic minorities in health access and outcome in six (6) areas: infant
24 mortality, cancer screening, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, acquired
25 immunodeficiency syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus infection, and
26 immunizations; and
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28 WHEREAS, despite progress in the overall health of Arkansans, there are
29 continuing health disparities in the burden of illness and death experienced
30 by African-Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans, compared to the
31 Arkansas population as a whole; and
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33 WHEREAS, minorities are more likely to die from cancer, cardiovascular
34 disease, stroke, chemical dependency, diabetes, infant mortality, violence,
35 and in recent years, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; and
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1 WHEREAS, there is a need for scientists in the fields of biomedical,
2 clinical, behavioral, and health services research to focus on how best to
3 eliminate health disparities; and

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5 WHEREAS, individuals such as underrepresented minorities and women in
6 the workforce enable society to address its diverse needs; and

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8 WHEREAS, behavioral and social science research has increased awareness
9 and understanding of factors associated with health care utilization and
10 access, patient attitudes toward health services, and risk and protective
11 behaviors that affect health and illness, and those factors have the
12 potential to be modified to help close the health disparities gap among
13 ethnic minority populations,

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15 NOW THEREFORE,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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19 THAT the House of Representatives of the Eighty-fifth General Assembly
20 recognizes that:

21 (1) An Arkansas Minority Health and Health Disparities Month should be
22 established to promote educational efforts to improve the health problems
23 currently facing minorities and other health disparities populations;

24 (2) The Director of the Department of Health should present public
25 service announcements on health promotion and disease prevention among
26 minorities and other health disparities populations in Arkansas and educate
27 the public and health care professionals about health disparities;

28 (3) The Governor should issue a proclamation recognizing the immediate
29 need to reduce health disparities in Arkansas and encouraging all health
30 organizations and Arkansans to conduct appropriate programs and activities to
31 promote healthfulness in minority and other health disparity communities;

32 (4) Federal, state, and local governments should work in concert
33 with the private and nonprofit sector to emphasize the recruitment and
34 retention of qualified individuals from racial, ethnic, and gender groups
35 that are currently underrepresented in the health care professions;

36 (5) The Department of Health should collect and report data on

1 health care access and utilization on patients by race, ethnicity,
2 socioeconomic status, and where possible primary language, to monitor the
3 state's progress toward the elimination of health care disparities; and

4 (6) The information gained from research about factors
5 associated with health care utilization and access, patient attitudes toward
6 health services, and risk and protective behaviors that affect health and
7 illness, should be disseminated to all health care professionals so that they
8 may better communicate with all patients, regardless of race or ethnicity,
9 without bias or prejudice.

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