

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5007

By Committee on Appropriations

1-24

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION endorsing National Heart Failure Awareness week.

WHEREAS, Congestive heart failure is a major public health problem that impacts five million Americans; and

WHEREAS, Each year there are 550,000 new cases of congestive heart failure diagnosed, with 200,000 deaths and one million hospitalizations per year caused by this disease; and

WHEREAS, Congestive heart failure is the leading cause of hospitalization in patients over the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, Congestive heart failure patients with the most severe symptoms have approximately a 50% one-year survival rate, and half of the patients with even mild symptoms die within 5 years; and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of patients are not diagnosed until late in the course of the disease; and

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

WHEREAS, Although current treatment guidelines recommend that approximately 80% of heart failure patients receive ACE inhibitors in combination with beta blockers to extend life and reduce costly hospitalizations, only 45% of these patients are treated with ACE inhibitors and only 20% receive beta blockers; and

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

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein: That the Kansas Legislature endorses the national proclamation of National Heart Failure Awareness week; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of Health and Environment

1 transmit the treatment guidelines for congestive heart failure published
2 by the Heart Failure Society of America, Inc. to the appropriate health
3 care professionals in the state urging their adoption of these guidelines
4 in their practice; and

5 *Be it further resolved:* That physicians be encouraged to administer
6 echocardiograms to all patients over 50 years of age with a history of heart
7 disease and begin appropriate treatment as early as possible; and

8 *Be it further resolved:* That payers of medical expenses be encour-
9 aged to provide reimbursement for the standard of care for congestive
10 heart failure, including FDA approved ACE inhibitors and beta blockers,
11 as well as other therapies that have been shown to reduce the mortality
12 and morbidity associated with congestive heart failure; and

13 *Be it further resolved:* That the Kansas Legislature endorses the in-
14 clusion of the latest treatment advances for congestive heart failure in the
15 curriculum of the medical schools of the state of Kansas.

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43