

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 531

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE NATIONAL PROCLAMATION
2 OF NATIONAL HEART FAILURE AWARENESS WEEK AND URGING THE ADOPTION
3 OF CERTAIN MEDICAL PRACTICE AND PAYOR REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES
4 REGARDING CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE.

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

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

10 WHEREAS, congestive heart failure patients with the most
11 severe symptoms have approximately 50% one-year survival rate and
12 half of the patients with even mild disease die within 5 years;
13 and

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

16 WHEREAS, a conservative estimate of annual U.S. health
17 expenditures for congestive heart failure is in excess of Ten
18 Billion Dollars with the largest portion, Eight Billion Dollars,
19 of this expenditure for the cost of hospitalizations; and

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

25 WHEREAS, the primary goals of the "National Heart Failure
26 Awareness Week" are: (1) to promote research related to all
27 aspects of heart failure and provide a forum for presentation of

28 that research; (2) to educate heart failure caregivers and
29 patients through programs, publications, and other media allowing
30 for more effective treatment and diagnosis of heart failure; and
31 (3) to enhance the quality and duration of life for those with
32 heart failure:

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
34 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
35 we do hereby endorse the national proclamation of "National Heart
36 Failure Awareness Week."

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State of Mississippi
38 endorses the National Proclamation of National Heart Failure
39 Awareness week.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State Board of Health
41 transmit the treatment guidelines for congestive heart failure
42 published by the Heart Failure Society of America, Inc., to the
43 State Medical Licensure Board while urging their adoption of these
44 guidelines in their practice.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That physicians and payers should be
46 encouraged to administer or provide reimbursement for
47 echocardiograms to all patients over 50 years of age with a
48 history of heart disease and begin appropriate treatment as early
49 as possible.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That physicians and payers should be
51 encouraged to prescribe or provide reimbursement for the standard
52 of care for congestive heart failure, including FDA approved beta
53 blockers and ACE inhibitors, as well as other therapies that have
54 been shown to reduce the mortality and morbidity associated with
55 congestive heart failure.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature endorses the
57 inclusion of the latest treatment advances for congestive heart
58 failure in the curriculum of the University Medical Center.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
60 to the State Board of Health and the Board of Trustees of State

61 Institutions of Higher Learning for appropriate action, and that
62 copies be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.