SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 531

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

WHEREAS, each year there are 550,000 new cases of congestive
heart failure diagnosed, with 200,000 deaths and one million
hospitalizations per year due to the 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 50% one-year survival rate and
half of the patients with even mild disease die within 5 years; and
and
WHEREAS, the vast majority of patients are not diagnosed
until late in the course of disease; and
WHEREAS, a conservative estimate of annual U.S. health
expenditures for congestive heart failure is in excess of Ten
Billion Dollars with the largest portion, Eight Billion Dollars,
of this expenditure 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 but only 45% of patients are treated with ACE
inhibitors and 20% of patients receive beta blockers; and
WHEREAS, the primary goals of the "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 SENATE OF THE STATE OF
MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
we do hereby endorse the national proclamation of "National Heart
Failure Awareness Week."

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
to the State Board of Health and the Board of Trustees of State
Institutions of Higher Learning for appropriate action, and that copies be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.