

By: Senator(s) Little, Blackmon, Chaney,
Dawkins, Dearing, Frazier, Gordon, Hamilton,
Harden, Hyde-Smith, Jackson, Jordan, Smith,
Stogner, Tollison, Walden, Walls, Williamson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 601

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MAY 11-17, 2003, AS
2 "WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK IN MISSISSIPPI" TO RAISE AWARENESS ON THE
3 PREVALENT DISEASES AFFECTING WOMEN IN OUR STATE.

4 WHEREAS, the 4th Annual National Women's Health Week is May
5 11-17, 2003, which starts on Mother's Day and ends on the
6 following Saturday, a time when there is much attention focused on
7 women; and

8 WHEREAS, National Women's Health Week is a national effort by
9 an alliance of organizations to raise awareness about manageable
10 steps women can take to improve their health. The focus is on the
11 importance of incorporating simple preventative and positive
12 health behaviors into everyday life, to encourage awareness about
13 key health issues among all women; and

14 WHEREAS, National Women's Health Week begins with
15 participation in the first ever National Women's Check-Up Day on
16 Monday, May 12, 2003, where community health centers, hospitals
17 and other health providers across America will encourage women to
18 receive preventive health services, in order to educate, screen
19 and counsel underserved women on preventive health issues and
20 prevent the onset of targeted health conditions. Other events
21 include health forums, walks, and women's health publication
22 releases; and

23 WHEREAS, the diseases to be targeted by the National Women's
24 Health Week initiative in Mississippi due to their prevalence are
25 breast cancer, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, obesity and
26 diabetes; and



27 WHEREAS, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women,
28 excluding cancers of the skin; the incidence and death rates from
29 breast cancer increase with age and yet the percentage of women 40
30 and older with a recent mammogram in Mississippi is the lowest in
31 the nation, ranging from 51.5% in Mississippi to 75.8% in
32 Delaware, according to American Cancer Society statistics, for a
33 recent mammogram and clinical breast examination, the percentages
34 are even lower, ranging from 45.5% in Mississippi to 67.6% in
35 Delaware; additionally, ethnicity is a factor in breast cancer
36 statistics because African-American women are more likely to die
37 from breast cancer than are white women, but after age 40, white
38 women are more likely to be diagnosed; and

39 WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the No. 1 killer in
40 the United States, claiming more lives each year than the next 5
41 leading causes of death combined; nearly 2,600 Americans die of
42 CVD each day, an average of 1 death every 33 seconds and the
43 prevalence is higher for women than for men, 1 in 29 women's
44 deaths is from breast cancer while 1 in 2.4 women's deaths is from
45 CVD; African-American and Mexican-American women have a higher CVD
46 risk factor than white women of comparable socioeconomic status;
47 the number of heart disease deaths per 100,000 women in
48 Mississippi is 298 compared to 223 nationally; additionally,
49 coronary heart disease rates in women after menopause are 2-3
50 times those of women the same age before menopause; the aging of
51 the population in Mississippi will undoubtedly result in an
52 increase incidence of chronic diseases, including coronary artery
53 disease, heart failure and stroke; and

54 WHEREAS, osteoporosis is a disease characterized by low bone
55 mass leading to bone fragility and increases susceptibility to
56 fractures; osteoporosis is a major public health threat, of the 10
57 million Americans estimated to have osteoporosis, 8 million are
58 women (80%); women can lose up to 20% of their bone mass in the 5
59 to 7 years following menopause, making them more susceptible to



60 osteoporosis; a national effort is needed to educate younger
61 generations so they will have the opportunity to achieve and
62 maintain optimal peak bone mass and reduce the risk of fractures
63 later in life; and

64 WHEREAS, according to the Mississippi State Department of
65 Health, more Mississippians are overweight and diabetic now than
66 ever before; the 2001 statistics show that 9.3% Mississippi adults
67 have diabetes compared to 7.6% in 2000 and 26.6% of the state's
68 adult population are obese compared to 25% in 2000; almost 190,000
69 adults in the state now have diabetes and an estimated 520,000
70 adults are obese; in middle-age and elderly African-American
71 women, almost two-thirds are obese and more than one-third have
72 diabetes, however, all age, race and gender groups are affected by
73 this modern-day "epidemic"; also, studies have shown that many
74 people in the early stages of developing diabetes do not know that
75 they have the disease, and better access to primary health care is
76 important in dealing with this disease; and

77 WHEREAS, women in Mississippi need to be informed to take
78 responsible actions to improve their own health, and the
79 participation in National Women's Health Week in Mississippi will
80 help underserved women gain access to important preventive health
81 care services:

82 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
83 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
84 May 11-17, 2003, is hereby designated as "Women's Health Week in
85 Mississippi" to raise awareness of the prevalent diseases
86 affecting women in our state and celebrate the role of good health
87 practices in the lives of women.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
89 the State Board of Health, the Department of Human Services and
90 the University of Mississippi Medical Center for distribution to
91 appropriate women's groups and health organizations, businesses



92 and social service agencies participating in these events, and be
93 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

