

By: Senator(s) Hyde-Smith, Albritton,  
Butler, Clarke, Dawkins, Dearing, Frazier,  
Jackson (15th), Jackson (11th), Jordan,  
Little, Thomas, Wilemon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 505

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE MAY AS OSTEOPOROSIS  
2 AWARENESS MONTH IN MISSISSIPPI AND TO ENCOURAGE THE STATE  
3 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS  
4 41-93-1 THROUGH 41-93-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972.

5 WHEREAS, osteoporosis is a bone-thinning disease that is a  
6 major health concern; and

7 WHEREAS, osteoporosis is a "silent disease" that typically  
8 progresses without symptoms until fractures occur; and

9 WHEREAS, it is estimated that some 77% of the approximately  
10 400,000 Mississippi women over the age of 50 remain untreated and  
11 undiagnosed for osteoporosis; and

12 WHEREAS, osteoporosis is generally regarded as a preventable,  
13 but not reversible, disease; and

14 WHEREAS, early detection of osteoporosis among at-risk  
15 individuals is crucial to the prevention of the disease; and

16 WHEREAS, the 1994 Regular Session of the Mississippi  
17 Legislature expanded the state's role in women's health with the  
18 passage of Sections 41-93-1 through 41-93-9, Mississippi Code of  
19 1972, enabling the State Department of Health to create a  
20 statewide program to promote public awareness about osteoporosis:

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI STATE  
22 SENATE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That we  
23 do hereby designate May as Osteoporosis Awareness Month in  
24 Mississippi.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mississippi Legislature  
26 encourages the State Department of Health to use, but not be  
27 limited to, the following strategies toward the prevention,  
28 diagnosis, education and treatment of osteoporosis:

29           (1) Establish and coordinate an advisory panel on  
30 osteoporosis, which shall provide nongovernmental input regarding  
31 the osteoporosis prevention and treatment education programs  
32 provided for by Section 41-93-3 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972.  
33 Membership of this panel should include, but not be limited to,  
34 persons with osteoporosis, women's health organizations, public  
35 health educators, osteoporosis experts, and providers of  
36 osteoporosis health care.

37           (2) The Department of Health is hereby requested to file a  
38 report, at least annually, setting forth all the department's  
39 osteoporosis-related activities for the previous year. The  
40 reports shall include, but not be limited to, the activities and  
41 recommendations of the advisory committee, the activities of the  
42 department on a monthly basis to accomplish the objectives  
43 contained in Section 41-93-1 et seq., and the number of Peripheral  
44 Dual X-ray Absorptiometry (PDEXA) screenings conducted by the  
45 department as a means of detecting and diagnosing this disease  
46 among Mississippi citizens. The report requested by this  
47 resolution shall be filed with the Chairman of the Public Health  
48 and Appropriations Committees of the State Senate and House of  
49 Representatives, and shall be available to the general public.  
50 The first of said reports is requested by December 1, 2003, with  
51 subsequent reports by the same date in each succeeding year  
52 thereafter.

53           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
54 furnished to the National Osteoporosis Foundation and the Capitol  
55 Press Corps.