

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.