

By: Williamson, Hyde-Smith, Dawkins, Harden, To: Rules
Carlton

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 58

1 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND ALL STATE
2 HEALTH-RELATED AGENCIES TO SERVE THE HEALTH NEEDS OF WOMEN IN
3 MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, for many years, the topic of women's health has
5 primarily dealt with reproductive health, and only recently has
6 the focus expanded to encompass all aspects of wellness and
7 disease, including prevention and treatment; and

8 WHEREAS, for too long, public health policy in the United
9 States has failed to recognize the unique nature of women's health
10 in contrast to men's health, which has resulted in the health of
11 women being neglected; and

12 WHEREAS, while many people think of cardiovascular disease as
13 a man's disease, more women than men have died as a result of
14 cardiovascular disease every year since 1984, with heart disease
15 being the leading cause of death in women in the United States;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, women are twice as likely as men to suffer from
18 clinical depression; more than eleven million American women
19 suffer from clinical depression every year; and

20 WHEREAS, cancer is the second leading cause of death in
21 American women who suffer from many different types of the
22 disease; the incidence and mortality rate for many of these
23 cancers are higher in women compared with men, with many cancer
24 proving to be fatal; and

25 WHEREAS, results from the National Health Interview Survey
26 showed that self-reported cases of women who suffer from asthma

27 increased an astonishing 82% from 1982 to 1992, compared with a
28 29% increase for men and not only is the self-reported incidence
29 increasing at a faster rate, but the rate of hospitalizations is
30 also higher for women than men in most age groups; and

31 WHEREAS, schizophrenia occurs equally in women and men, but
32 the onset of the illness generally occurs at a later age for women
33 than for men, the result of which is that the disease has a
34 greater impact on women with more developed families and careers;
35 and

36 WHEREAS, osteoporosis is the loss of bone mass and
37 deterioration of bone tissue, primarily among women, leading to
38 enhanced bone fragility and an increase in the risk of fracture,
39 and this loss can also be extensive over a woman's lifetime; and

40 WHEREAS, it is known that activities which focus on wellness
41 and prevention are two important elements to better health and yet
42 women are not taking advantage of these opportunities to improve
43 their health; and

44 WHEREAS, until very recently, women were significantly
45 underrepresented in clinical trials for drugs, due in large part
46 to concerns about the impact of drugs on their reproductive
47 health, particularly on fetal health in pregnancies that might
48 begin during trials; however, it is now recognized that results
49 from male-only trials do not equally apply to women or provide
50 data on effective treatments that are important to women:

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI STATE
52 SENATE, That we urge and request the Honorable Ronnie Musgrove,
53 Governor of the State of Mississippi, to continue to make women's
54 health a priority in this state, and encourage all state health
55 programs, including those administered by the State Department of
56 Health, the Division of Medicaid, the Office of Mental Health, the
57 State Health Insurance Management Board, the Mississippi Insurance
58 Department and the Department of Finance and Administration to
59 diligently seek to serve the health needs of Mississippi women,
60 and to aggressively educate them of their own unique health needs.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That enrolled copies of this
62 resolution be transmitted to the Governor, and all department
63 heads noted above.