

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 173

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the unique and vital health care services provided by osteopathic physicians must be included in any health care benefits package developed as part of health care system reform.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 4, 1993

Mr. BARCIA of Michigan (for himself Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the unique and vital health care services provided by osteopathic physicians must be included in any health care benefits package developed as part of health care system reform.

Whereas there exist two distinct branches of medicine in the United States—osteopathic physicians, denoted by the initials D.O., and allopathic physicians, denoted by the initials M.D.;

Whereas osteopathic physicians comprise 5.5 per centum (thirty five thousand) of all complete physicians in the United States;

Whereas each year over one hundred million patient visits are made to osteopathic physicians;

Whereas the unique focus of osteopathic medicine, with its guiding principle of treating the whole person, has rooted the profession in a philosophy which emphasizes primary care and prevention;

Whereas for more than one hundred years, the osteopathic profession has trained more than 50 per centum of its physicians in primary care areas;

Whereas policy makers agree that the number of primary care physicians must be increased if appropriate health care is to be made available to all Americans;

Whereas osteopathic medical education has a unique internship requiring a rotation in internal medicine, OB/GYN, family practice and surgery, ensuring that osteopathic physicians are first trained as primary care physicians, regardless of whether one chooses to specialize;

Whereas, osteopathic physicians provide complete medical care in all specialties with over half of the physicians currently practicing in primary care;

Whereas, osteopathic physicians comprise 15 per centum of all physicians practicing in communities of ten thousand or less, and 18 per centum of all physicians serving communities of two thousand five hundred or less;

Whereas osteopathic physicians serve approximately one out of every seven Medicare and one out of every four Medicaid recipients in the United States;

Whereas osteopathic physicians comprise 10 per centum of all physicians serving in the military; and

Whereas, despite their valuable contributions to the nation's health care, osteopathic physicians continue to experience discrimination from some health care institutions and managed care entities: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that any
3 legislation enacted to reform the health care delivery sys-
4 tem of the United States should include the services of-
5 fered by all of the Nation's osteopathic physicians. Specifi-
6 cally, such legislation should:

7 (1) Ensure that any American included in the
8 health care coverage systems supported by the Unit-
9 ed States Government have the opportunity, without
10 restriction, to secure the services of an osteopathic
11 physician.

12 (2) Encourage and advance practices and prin-
13 ciples utilized by the osteopathic profession which
14 are proven to produce high numbers of physicians
15 trained in all areas of primary care.

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