

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 234

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that obstetrician-gynecologists should be designated as primary care providers for women in Federal laws relating to the provision of health care.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 3, 1993

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. PORTER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GINGRICH and Mr. SLATTERY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that obstetrician-gynecologists should be designated as primary care providers for women in Federal laws relating to the provision of health care.

Whereas women constitute more than 50 percent of the population of the United States;

Whereas, because women's health historically has received little attention in terms of Federal funding and in terms of research priorities, there should be an increased emphasis on the needs and preferences of women in such areas;

Whereas the Federal Government should increase its support for women's health and can make a significant difference in improving the status of women's health;

Whereas a majority of women view their obstetrician-gynecologist as their primary or sole physician;

Whereas approximately 70 percent of women would be unwilling to change their obstetrician-gynecologist to save money;

Whereas an obstetrician-gynecologist improves the access to health care of a woman by providing primary and preventive health care throughout the woman's lifetime, encompassing care of the whole patient in addition to focusing on the processes of the female reproductive system;

Whereas preventive and primary care provided by an obstetrician-gynecologist includes instruction in breast self-examination, cervical cancer screening, health education, instruction in health promotion, hypertension and cardiovascular surveillance, osteoporosis counseling, sexually transmitted diseases counseling, and identification of victims of domestic violence;

Whereas the most effective ways to treat a health problem are to prevent it from occurring or to catch it in the early stages, when it is most treatable;

Whereas 60 percent of all office visits to obstetricians-gynecologists are for preventive care;

Whereas obstetrician-gynecologists refer their patients to other physicians less frequently than other primary care providers, thus avoiding costly and time-consuming referrals;

Whereas more than two-thirds of all visits to obstetrician-gynecologists were by established patients of the physician who were returning for care of a medical condition;

Whereas obstetrician-gynecologists manage the health of women beyond the reproductive system, and are uniquely

qualified on the basis of education and experience to provide such health care services to women;

Whereas the obstetrician-gynecologists provide health care to women with an awareness of the relationship of disease to family history;

Whereas over two-thirds of general family practice physicians do not deliver newborns and will not be able to address this need of women; and

Whereas 80 percent of maternity care services in the United States are provided by obstetrician-gynecologists: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) obstetrician-gynecologists should be designated as primary care providers for women in Federal laws relating to the provision of health care; and

(2) legislative proposals that define primary care should include services performed by obstetrician-gynecologists in such definition.

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