

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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1996 Regular Session
6lr0973

By: Senators Lawlah, Young, and Dorman

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 1996

Assigned to: Finance

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Underrepresentation of Minority Physicians in Health**
3 **Maintenance Organizations**

4 FOR the purpose of creating a Task Force to Study the Underrepresentation of Minority
5 Physicians in Health Maintenance Organizations; providing for the membership of
6 the Task Force; providing for the duties of the Task Force; providing for the
7 submission of findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General
8 Assembly; and generally relating to the creation of the Task Force to Study the
9 Underrepresentation of Minority Physicians in Health Maintenance Organizations.

10 WHEREAS, Increasing numbers of people are entering managed care programs
11 and health maintenance organizations (HMOs), including those receiving Medicare and
12 Medicaid benefits; and

13 WHEREAS, A recent study shows that national enrollment in HMOs reached 47.2
14 million as of July 1, 1994, an increase of 0.8% since mid-1993; and

15 WHEREAS, HMO enrollment represents 18.1% of the U.S. population; and

16 WHEREAS, Maryland continues to be ranked third in market penetration with
17 about 38% of the State's population in managed care; and

18 WHEREAS, HMOs have increasingly rejected or dropped African American and
19 other ethnic minority physicians and their professional practices from participation on
20 their provider panels, often without explanation; and

21 WHEREAS, Although no reason is given, most African American and other ethnic
22 minority physicians believe that they are being rejected or dropped from participation
23 because their patients tend to be sicker and, therefore, costlier and that HMOs want
24 physicians with low-cost patients; and

25 WHEREAS, Particularly, African American physicians often work in inner cities in
26 solo practices that are not appealing to HMOs looking to acquire group practices; and

27 WHEREAS, There is no easy or quick solution to this problem; now, therefore, be
28 it

29 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the**
30 Governor is requested to establish a Task Force to Study the Underrepresentation of
31 Minority Physicians in Health Maintenance Organizations; and be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That the Task Force be composed of the following members:

2 (1) 2 members from the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
3 the Senate;

4 (2) 2 members from the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
5 the House;

6 (3) 4 health care providers, appointed by the Governor;

7 (4) 4 members representing health maintenance organizations and other
8 managed care organizations, appointed by the Governor; and

9 (5) 3 consumer members, appointed by the Governor; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Governor shall designate the Chairman of the Task Force;
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the
13 Insurance Administration shall provide staff to the Task Force; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the purpose of the Task Force is to:

15 (1) Determine the current composition and makeup of HMO and other
16 managed care organization provider panels;

17 (2) Identify and evaluate the effectiveness of current methods used by
18 HMOs and other managed care organizations to recruit and retain minority physicians on
19 their provider panels;

20 (3) Make recommendations on how to improve the representation of
21 minority physicians on HMO and other managed care organization provider panels; and

22 (4) Determine whether any additional legislation is required to implement
23 the recommendations of the Task Force for introduction in the 1997 Session of the
24 General Assembly; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Task Force report its findings and recommendations to the
26 Governor and, subject to § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, the General
27 Assembly by December 1, 1996; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That notice of each meeting of the Task Force be made public by
29 delivering a copy of the meeting notice to the Legislative Information Officer, Room B-6,
30 Department of Legislative Reference, Legislative Services Building, 90 State Circle,
31 Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991. The notice should be delivered no later than Tuesday
32 afternoon at 4:00 p.m. for inclusion in the weekly Hearing Schedule; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
34 Legislative Reference to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the
35 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
36 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.