
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 181

Session of
1985

INTRODUCED BY SAURMAN, ITKIN, FOX, SIRIANNI, J. L. WRIGHT,
SHOWERS, COHEN, DEAL, DORR, WOGAN, J. TAYLOR, HERSHEY,
SEMMELE, NAHILL AND CORNELL, OCTOBER 22, 1985

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, OCTOBER 23, 1985

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the medical schools in this Commonwealth to
2 recognize the special health care needs of the elderly and to
3 develop certain remedies.

4 WHEREAS, The percentage of the population over 60 years of
5 age is 18.2% in Pennsylvania and projections indicate a steady
6 increase to 24% by the year 2030; and

7 WHEREAS, This segment of the population has greater need for
8 medical care and the use of prescription and nonprescription
9 drugs to maintain normal activity; and

10 WHEREAS, The elderly are more susceptible to drug side
11 effects, interactions and alcohol abuse; and

12 WHEREAS, The elderly have special health and emotional needs
13 which require understanding and perception on the part of those
14 who provide their medical care; and

15 WHEREAS, The recognition of the importance of providing care
16 to this growing segment of our population has led the
17 Association of American Medical Colleges to depart from its
18 traditional reluctance to address categorical subjects in the

1 curriculum and to take a position specifically promoting greater
2 emphasis on geriatric medicine in medical education; therefore
3 be it

4 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the House of
5 Representatives memorialize the Governor to urge each medical
6 school of this Commonwealth to make of highest priority the
7 implementation of those actions called for in the document
8 "Undergraduate Medical Education, Preparation for Improved
9 Geriatric Care," adopted by the Executive Council of the
10 Association of American Medical Colleges in the section entitled
11 Responsibilities of the Medical School; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the medical schools accept the
13 responsibilities recommended by the Association of American
14 Medical Colleges to:

15 (1) provide a focus for change in the educational and
16 training programs to increase attention to the aging process
17 and elderly patients; this focus should include the
18 establishment of a group of faculty members interested in
19 gerontology and geriatric medicine and the training of other
20 faculty members in these areas;

21 (2) seek support to expand research in aging to improve
22 clinical care, stimulate medical student interest in the
23 fields of gerontology and geriatrics, and foster interaction
24 with other specialties and disciplines;

25 (3) offer a variety of clinical settings and patient
26 encounters (including ambulatory, long-term institution, and
27 home care experiences) through which students can learn
28 special arrangements for the care, diagnosis and treatment of
29 the elderly;

30 (4) arrange for students to interact with healthy,

1 independent elderly persons; this interaction would help
2 students learn about the experiences elderly people have when
3 they seek health care; and

4 (5) urge scientific discipline and medical specialty
5 societies to develop and disseminate geriatric educational
6 material in their fields;

7 and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
9 the deans of each medical school in Pennsylvania.