

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 454

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION designating June 15-21, 2009, as "National Men's Health Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, despite the advances in medical technology and research, Tennessee men continue to live an average of almost eight fewer years than women, and African-American men have the lowest life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, nine of the ten leading causes of death, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, affect men at a higher percentage than women; and

WHEREAS, between the ages of forty-five and fifty-four, men are three times more likely than women to die of heart attacks; and

WHEREAS, men die of heart disease at almost twice the rate of women; and

WHEREAS, men die of cancer at almost one and a half times the rate of women; and

WHEREAS, testicular cancer is one of the most common cancers in men between the ages of fifteen and thirty-four, and when detected early, has a 95 percent survival rate; and

WHEREAS, the number of cases of colon cancer among American men was almost 54,000 in 2008, and almost half of such men died from the disease; and

WHEREAS, the likelihood that a man will develop prostate cancer is one in six; and

WHEREAS, the number of American men contracting prostate cancer reached over 186,000 in 2008, and almost 29,000 of such men died from the disease; and

WHEREAS, African-American men in the United States have the highest incidence in the world of prostate cancer; and

WHEREAS, significant numbers of male-related health problems, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, infertility, and colon cancer, could be detected and treated if men's awareness of these problems was more pervasive; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the elderly widows now living in poverty were not poor before the death of their husbands, and by age 100 women outnumber men eight to one; and

WHEREAS, educating both health care providers and the general public about the importance of early detection of male health problems will result in reducing rates of mortality for these diseases; and

WHEREAS, appropriate use of tests such as Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) exams, blood pressure screens, and cholesterol screens, in conjunction with clinical examination and self-testing for problems such as testicular cancer, can result in the detection of many of these problems in their early stages and increases in the survival rates to nearly 100 percent; and

WHEREAS, women are 100 percent more likely to visit the doctor for annual examinations and preventive services than men; and

WHEREAS, men are less likely than women to visit their health center or physician for regular screening examinations of male-related problems for a variety of reasons, including fear, lack of health insurance, lack of information, and cost factors; and

WHEREAS, National Men's Health Week was established by Congress and first celebrated in 1994 and urged men and their families to engage in appropriate health behaviors; the resulting increased awareness has improved health-related education and helped prevent illness; and

WHEREAS, since 1994, National Men's Health Week has been celebrated each June by dozens of states, cities, localities, public health departments, health care entities, churches, and community organizations throughout the Nation, promoting health awareness events focused on men and family; and

WHEREAS, men who are educated about the value that preventative health can play in prolonging their lifespan and their role as productive family members will be more likely to participate in health screenings; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of National Men's Health Week is to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage the early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate June 15-21, 2009, as "National Men's Health Week" in Tennessee and encourage men and their families to increase their awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, and medical checkups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.