

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 627

By Kelsey

A RESOLUTION relative to patient care challenges faced by medical professionals and facilities.

WHEREAS, the cost of medical care continues to skyrocket; and

WHEREAS, devices and drugs ("supplies") may have efficacy after "use by" dates; and

WHEREAS, critical life-saving supplies may be on back-order status; and

WHEREAS, even cardiac resuscitation drugs, including lidocaine, bicarbonate, epinephrine, and saline solution, have had temporary shortages due to natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, several supplies may not be available for acquisition at the "use by" date at the clinical setting; and

WHEREAS, clinics and facilities do routinely dispose of inventory by the "use by" date; and

WHEREAS, this disposal may make critical supplies unavailable for emergency patient care; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense has worked proactively with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to reclaim expired effective critical supplies under the Shelf Life Extension Program; and

WHEREAS, the FDA has recently acted proactively during the 2017-2018 flu season to extend the shelf life of saline for intravenous use; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that all regulatory agencies in Tennessee acknowledge the patient care challenges faced by medical professionals and facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that agencies give proper consideration to the judgment exercised by medical professionals and facilities as they use and replace critical supplies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that agencies make efforts to work with the FDA on strategies to minimize manufacturing shortages and identify supplies appropriate for expanded cost-effective shelf life extension programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these efforts are needed to maintain and improve access to care and ensure patient welfare.