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S. RES. 493

Recognizing that the occurrence of prostate cancer in African-American men has reached epidemic proportions and urging Federal agencies to address that health crisis by supporting education, awareness outreach, and research specifically focused on how prostate cancer affects African-American men.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2012

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. AKAKA, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Recognizing that the occurrence of prostate cancer in African-American men has reached epidemic proportions and urging Federal agencies to address that health crisis by supporting education, awareness outreach, and research specifically focused on how prostate cancer affects African-American men.

Whereas the incidence of prostate cancer in African-American men is more than one and a half times higher than in any other racial or ethnic group in the United States;

Whereas African-American men have the highest mortality rate of any ethnic and racial group in the United States,

dying at a rate that is approximately two and a half times higher than other ethnic and racial groups;

Whereas that rate of mortality represents the largest disparity of mortality rates in any of the major cancers;

Whereas prostate cancer can be cured with early detection and the proper treatment, regardless of the ethnic or racial group of the cancer patient;

Whereas African Americans are more likely to be diagnosed at an earlier age and at a later stage of cancer progression than all other ethnic and racial groups, leading to lower cure rates and lower chances of survival;

Whereas, for cases diagnosed early, studies show a 5-year survival rate of nearly 100 percent, but the survival rate drops significantly to 28 percent for cases diagnosed in late stages; and

Whereas recent genomics research has increased the ability to identify men at high risk for aggressive prostate cancer:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes that prostate cancer has created
3 a health crisis for African-American men;

4 (2) recognizes the importance of health cov-
5 erage and access to care, as well as promoting in-
6 formed decisionmaking between men and their doc-
7 tors, taking into consideration the known risks and
8 potential benefits of screening and treatment options
9 for prostate cancer;

10 (3) urges Federal agencies to support—

1 (A) research to address and attempt to end
2 the health crisis created by prostate cancer;

3 (B) efforts relating to education, aware-
4 ness, and early detection at the grassroots level
5 to end that health crisis; and

6 (C) the Office of Minority Health of the
7 Department of Health and Human Services in
8 focusing on improving health and healthcare
9 outcomes for African Americans at an elevated
10 risk of prostate cancer; and

11 (4) urges investment by the National Cancer
12 Institute and National Institute of Biomedical Imag-
13 ing and Bioengineering, and other elements of the
14 National Institutes of Health, as well as the Depart-
15 ment of Defense, in research focusing on the im-
16 provement of early detection and treatment of pros-
17 tate cancer, such as by using biomarkers to accu-
18 rately distinguish indolent forms of prostate cancer
19 from lethal forms and advanced imaging tools to as-
20 sure the best level of individualized patient care.

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