

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1999**

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**HOUSE RESOLUTION 1761\***

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Sponsors: Representatives Gardner, Howard, Morris; Adams, Alexander, Baker, Bowie, Esposito, Insko, Jarrell, Luebke, McAllister, Miller, Preston, Russell, Sherrill, Sossamon, Wainwright, Walend, and Weiss.

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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May 25, 2000

- 1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A WOMEN'S HEALTH PLATFORM TO  
2 IMPROVE THE HEALTH STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE STATE OF NORTH  
3 CAROLINA.  
4       Whereas, State Government can improve its support for women's health issues  
5 and can make a significant difference in improving the status of women's health; and  
6       Whereas, women are different, metabolically, hormonally, and physiologically  
7 from men and have different patterns of health and disease, and some diseases are more  
8 common in women than in men; and  
9       Whereas, women are more likely to suffer from chronic diseases with more  
10 than one in five women having some form of cardiovascular disease and one in two  
11 women having an osteoporosis-related fracture in her lifetime; and  
12       Whereas, women are three times more likely to develop rheumatoid arthritis  
13 and two to three times more likely to suffer from depression; and  
14       Whereas, women are less often referred for diagnostic tests and less often  
15 treated for heart disease as compared to men; and  
16       Whereas, women smokers are 20 to 70 percent more likely to develop lung  
17 cancer; and  
18       Whereas, women outnumber men three to one in long-term care facilities; and

1           Whereas, women are much more likely to provide health care to family  
2 members and make health care decisions and spend two of every three health care  
3 dollars; and

4           Whereas, there is abundant evidence that women are undertreated and are  
5 underrepresented in women's health studies; and

6           Whereas, although there has been some national attention on women's health  
7 care issues, and some legislative activity by Congress on access issues, there remains  
8 little change in vitally important preventive care and treatment issues; and

9           Whereas, in a recent survey of voters, almost 80% of women and 60% of men  
10 favored a Women's Health Care Platform which supports relevant care, relevant research,  
11 and relevant education for women; and

12           Whereas, nine out of 10 men and women agree that women have the right to  
13 access high quality treatment and to access the latest technologies and appropriate  
14 diagnostic tests; Now, therefore,

15 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

16           Section 1. It is the sense of the House of Representatives that every State  
17 agency and State-chartered institution of learning or recipient of State grants or funding  
18 will take appropriate action to achieve improved and equal access for women to quality  
19 health care, including:

- 20           (1) Provide women equal access to quality health care.
- 21           (2) Increase the number of women covered by comprehensive health care  
22 insurance including primary and preventive health care for all women.
- 23           (3) Prevent serious health problems by timely diagnosis and treatment  
24 programs.
- 25           (4) Promote strategies to increase patient access to recommended diagnostic  
26 and screening tests, preventive health regimens, and recommended  
27 treatments.
- 28           (5) Encourage unimpeded access to women's specialty health providers.
- 29           (6) Create and promote public/private partnerships to create programs  
30 designed to improve the scope and quality of women's health care.
- 31           (7) Improve communication between providers and patients.
- 32           (8) Continue to expand participation of women in clinical trials.
- 33           (9) Increase government and private research on women's health issues and  
34 the differences between men and women and how they impact quality  
35 health care.
- 36           (10) Conduct more health outcomes research to demonstrate the value of  
37 women's health care interventions and preventive health measures in  
38 both the long and short term.
- 39           (11) Expand medical and nursing school curricula in the area of women's  
40 health and educate about gender biology.
- 41           (12) Support public education campaigns to increase women's awareness  
42 about their unique health risks and how to negotiate the complexities of  
43 today's health care system and obtain the best care available.

- 1           (13) Conduct public health campaigns via State and local departments of  
2           public health with private sector partners to focus on key women's  
3           preventive health issues.
- 4           (14) Foster development and dissemination of publicly available information  
5           on the quality of health care and health outcomes that improve women's  
6           ability to choose the best women's health care plan.
- 7           Section 2. The House of Representatives commends the Women in  
8           Government organization for its leadership and enterprise in bringing to North Carolina  
9           the appropriate urgency of need and meaningful steps that can be taken to attain the  
10          improved and equal access for women to quality health care, technologies and treatments,  
11          education of researchers about gender differences, and unimpeded access to women's  
12          health providers.
- 13          Section 3. This resolution is effective upon adoption.