

By Senator Clary

4-1540-04

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Senate Memorial No. \_\_\_\_

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to pass S. 1028 and its companion bill H.R. 1734 to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Men's Health.

WHEREAS, male morbidity and mortality from preventable causes is substantial, with significant and alarming disparities among subpopulations of men based on race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, and

WHEREAS, a silent health crisis is affecting the health and well-being of American men, and

WHEREAS, this health crisis is of particular concern to men but is also a concern for women, especially those who have fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers, and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Health Statistics has shown that men have higher age-adjusted death rates than women for each of the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States, and

WHEREAS, men are almost twice as likely as women to die from heart disease, and the incidence of stroke is over 10 percent higher in men than in women, and

WHEREAS, men are 50 percent more likely to die of cancer than women, and

WHEREAS, the life expectancy gap between men and women has steadily increased from 1 year in 1920 to 5 1/2 years in 2000, and

WHEREAS, since women live longer and tend to marry men older than they are, seven out of ten "baby boom" women will

1 outlive their husbands--many of whom can expect to be widows  
2 for 15 to 20 years, and

3 WHEREAS, compared with men, older women are three times  
4 more likely to be living alone, are nearly twice as likely to  
5 reside in a nursing home, and are more than twice as likely to  
6 live in poverty, and

7 WHEREAS, more than one-half the elderly widows now  
8 living in poverty were not poor before the death of their  
9 husbands, and

10 WHEREAS, studies show that the huge health and  
11 mortality disparity between men and women is due in part to a  
12 lack of awareness, poor health education, and the low number  
13 of male-specific health programs, and men are one-half as  
14 likely as women to visit a doctor for regular physician  
15 check-ups or to obtain preventative screening tests for  
16 serious diseases, and

17 WHEREAS, men's health is also a concern for employers,  
18 who lose productive employees as well as pay the cost of  
19 medical care, and

20 WHEREAS, men's health is also a concern for federal and  
21 state governments and society which absorb the enormous costs  
22 of premature death and disability, including the costs of  
23 caring for dependents left behind, and

24 WHEREAS, every state has formed a commission to address  
25 women's issues or has established a women's health program,  
26 but only seven states have a commission to address men's  
27 issues or a men's health program, and

28 WHEREAS, educating men, their families, and health care  
29 providers about the importance of early detection of male  
30 health problems can result in reducing rates of mortality of  
31 male-specific diseases as well as improving the health of

1 America's men and its overall economic well-being, NOW,  
2 THEREFORE,

3  
4 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

5  
6 That the Congress of the United States is requested to  
7 support S. 1028 and H.R. 1734 amending the Public Health  
8 Service Act to establish an Office of Men's Health.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
10 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
11 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
12 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
13 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

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