

By Senator Braynon

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the need for, and encouraging policies that improve access to, home dialysis for minorities living with end-stage renal disease.

WHEREAS, end-stage renal disease (ESRD), also known as kidney failure, currently impacts 661,000 Americans, and more than 89,000 Americans die from ESRD annually, and

WHEREAS, more than 117,000 new ESRD cases are diagnosed each year, with 7,500 of those cases diagnosed in Florida, and

WHEREAS, dialysis and transplant are the only treatments for ESRD, and 70 percent of patients are on dialysis, and

WHEREAS, when dialysis is the method of treatment, a patient may either obtain treatment in his or her home with home hemodialysis (HHD) or home peritoneal dialysis (PD) or be transported to a dialysis center three times each week for hemodialysis, and

WHEREAS, HHD provides significant economic and lifestyle advantages, including greater autonomy and flexibility over when a patient dialyzes; reduces dependence on transportation, as there is no travel to a clinic for treatments; and is more conducive to employment, as evidenced by higher rates of employment among home dialysis patients, and

WHEREAS, the first 3 months of dialysis cost an average of \$43,000 per patient, and

WHEREAS, access to an HHD training program allows Medicaid patients to move to Medicare as their primary payer on the first day of treatment, as opposed to at the beginning of the fourth month of treatment, by eliminating the Medicare waiting period

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30 and, therefore, saves taxpayers a significant amount of money,
31 and

32 WHEREAS, this 3-month Medicare waiting period drives up the
33 cost to states and, assuming 1,000 new Medicaid ESRD cases,
34 could mean as much as \$43 million in Medicaid costs each year,
35 and

36 WHEREAS, only 10 percent of dialysis patients receive
37 treatment at home, and

38 WHEREAS, ESRD disproportionately affects minority
39 Americans, with incidence among African Americans 3.7 times
40 greater than in Caucasians, and

41 WHEREAS, Hispanic patients are 13 percent less likely than
42 Caucasians to receive PD and 37 percent less likely to receive
43 HHD, while African-American patients are 29 percent less likely
44 than Caucasians to receive PD and 17 percent less likely to
45 receive HHD, and HHD and HHD home training are less available in
46 poorer counties, and

47 WHEREAS, significant barriers preclude many patients from
48 accessing HHD, including the lack of sufficient provider
49 education about HHD, insufficient reimbursement for HHD, limited
50 patient awareness of the option of HHD, and potentially
51 burdensome requirements for care partner support, and

52 WHEREAS, policymakers can alleviate these burdens by
53 focusing on telehealth, medical waste laws, and reimbursement
54 levels; by enabling and encouraging providers to offer HHD to
55 more of their patients; and by providing a pathway for staff-
56 assisted HHD, NOW, THEREFORE,

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58 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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60 That the importance of equal access to all dialysis
61 modalities for end-stage renal disease is recognized as a means
62 of preserving state funds by enabling more patients who can
63 benefit from home dialysis to access it.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state agencies and policymakers
65 are encouraged to implement policies to decrease the
66 disproportionate number of African Americans and other
67 minorities who lack access to home dialysis modalities.