

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015

SR 26

4
5 By: Senator L. Chesterfield

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 TO SUPPORT INCREASING DIVERSITY IN CLINICAL TRIAL
9 PARTICIPATION.

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12 **Subtitle**

13 TO SUPPORT INCREASING DIVERSITY IN
14 CLINICAL TRIAL PARTICIPATION.

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17 WHEREAS, developing new medicines and other treatment options is a
18 complex process that involves clinical trials to explore whether a medical
19 strategy, treatment, or device is safe and effective for humans; and

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21 WHEREAS, volunteer participation is necessary to evaluate potential
22 therapies for safety and effectiveness in clinical studies; and

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24 WHEREAS, often the enrolled patient population is not representative of
25 United States demographics or subpopulations impacted by a particular
26 disease; and

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28 WHEREAS, groups such as African-Americans and Hispanics are
29 significantly underrepresented in clinical trials, with African-Americans
30 representing 12% of the United States population but only 5% of clinical
31 trial participants, and Hispanics comprising 16% of the population but only
32 1% of clinical trial participants, according to a 2011 study by the United
33 States Food and Drug Administration; and

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35 WHEREAS, despite a Congressional mandate that research financed by the
36 National Institutes of Health include minorities, nonwhites comprise fewer



1 than 5% of participants in National Institutes of Health supported studies;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, certain medical conditions have been known to affect
5 particular demographic groups more than others, including Type II diabetes
6 for which African-Americans and Hispanics are twice as likely to be diagnosed
7 on average; and

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9 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
10 the sickle cell trait is common among African-Americans and occurs in about 1
11 in 12, and sickle cell disease occurs in about 1 out of every 500 African
12 American births compared to about 1 out of every 36,000 Hispanic births; and

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14 WHEREAS, race and ethnicity have also been demonstrated to affect the
15 efficacy of a response to certain drugs, such as anti-hypertensive therapies
16 in the treatment of hypertension in African-Americans and anti-depressants in
17 Hispanics; and

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19 WHEREAS, many barriers exist that account for the low rate of
20 participation among minority communities, including patient fear of
21 experimentation and lack of understanding or education with regard to the
22 importance of clinical trials in creating new treatments and cures,

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24 NOW THEREFORE,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE
26 OF ARKANSAS:

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28 THAT the Senate of the Ninetieth General Assembly supports ensuring
29 that diverse populations of different racial and ethnic backgrounds are
30 represented in clinical research, as this is an important issue that warrants
31 the dedication of additional community resources to increase awareness on the
32 importance of participating in clinical trials, provide support for patient
33 participation, and promote effective partnerships with the community to
34 achieve solutions.

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon its adoption, a copy of this

1 resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice
2 President of the United States, members of the United States House of
3 Representatives and the United States Senate, and other federal and state
4 government officials as appropriate.

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