SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 177

By Tate

A RESOLUTION to support and promote increased diversity participation in clinical trials.

WHEREAS, the United States and the biopharmaceutical industry lead the world in developing new medicines and prescription medicines that yield critical advances against serious disease, helping people live longer, healthier lives; and

WHEREAS, continued advances in such innovation will be key in addressing future healthcare challenges, in helping patients lead better lives, and in curbing healthcare costs to states and territories; and

WHEREAS, clinical trials of new medicines are a vitally important and legally required part of the drug development and approval process; and

WHEREAS, successful completion of the clinical trials process is required to show the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that an investigational drug is safe and effective so it can be made available to a broader patient population; and

WHEREAS, clinical trials are the primary route by which patients can voluntarily participate in the drug development process, receive access to unapproved investigational medicines, and contribute to the collection of safety and efficacy data necessary for FDA approval; and

WHEREAS, biopharmaceutical research companies are conducting more than 5,400 clinical trials for new medicines in collaboration with clinical research centers, university medical schools, and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, these clinical trials have a significant economic impact in the states and communities, beyond the economic advantages of improved public health; and

WHEREAS, a key to successful clinical trials is diverse and robust volunteer participation; and

WHEREAS, minority communities are underrepresented in the clinical trials; and

WHEREAS, despite comprising twelve percent of the U.S. population, African Americans make up only five percent of clinical trial participants. Hispanics represent sixteen percent of the U.S. population, but only one percent of clinical trial participants; and

WHEREAS, according to the FDA, increased diversity in clinical trials may help researchers find better ways to fight diseases that disproportionately impact certain populations, and may be important for the safe and effective use of new therapies; and

WHEREAS, participation in a clinical trial not only may benefit the patient, but also may benefit future patients by helping further medical innovations that positively affect various ethnic and racial communities and all people; and

WHEREAS, without the patients who volunteer to participate in clinical trials, the development of these treatments would not be possible; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the Tennessee General Assembly encourage increased education and awareness among legislators, policymakers, patients, and providers about the clinical trial process and the need for recruitment and participation of diverse patient populations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly support this effort by engaging constituents through the diversity in clinical trials awareness campaign “Be the Cure.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly make information on increasing diversity enrollment in clinical trials available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly maintain an educational web site on the topic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we can increase diversity participation in clinical trials. Pass information to someone you know and be the cure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.