

House Resolution 923

By: Representatives Mitchell of the 61st, Post 3, Randall of the 107th, Dean of the 49th, Sailor of the 61st, Post 1, Hill of the 81st, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and supporting "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day"; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, United States Department of Health and Human Services has announced a
3 HHS-ABC Radio Networks campaign to reduce health disparities affecting African
4 Americans by encouraging individuals to go to a doctor for a health screening as part of
5 "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day"; and
- 6 WHEREAS, September 16, 2003, "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day" will rally African
7 Americans to visit a health professional or make an appointment to see a health professional.
8 The campaign is part of "Closing the Health Gap," an ongoing partnership that combines
9 HHS's medical expertise with the broadcast resources of ABC Radio Networks to provide
10 important health information to the African American population; and
- 11 WHEREAS, launched in November, 2001, "Closing the Health Gap" combines the resources
12 of HHS and ABC Radio's Urban Advantage Network, which reaches 17 million listeners
13 each week, with civic organizations and community groups across the United States in an
14 effort to reduce health disparities among African Americans by encouraging individuals to
15 take charge of their personal health. The program's goal is to inform, educate, challenge, and
16 empower African Americans to change behaviors through providing lifestyle tips and
17 information on local sources of health care and public health programs; and
- 18 WHEREAS, prevention and early detection of potential health problems are essential, and
19 there are steps within our reach that we all can take to better protect ourselves and our
20 families. People can take charge of their health, and participating in "Take a Loved One to
21 the Doctor Day," would be a positive first step; and
- 22 WHEREAS, "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day" is designed to encourage African
23 Americans and other minorities to become more involved in their health care and health
24 choices by working with local organizations and ABC Radio Networks' 240 urban affiliates

1 to help set up appointments with health care professionals and to accompany them on visits
2 to the doctor. The campaign also focuses on linking the government's extensive health
3 information resources directly to African Americans to help put knowledge to better use; and

4 WHEREAS, "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day" is a call to action to not only take care
5 of ourselves, but to take care of the people we love, in that everyone knows someone that
6 would benefit from a trip to the doctor, and that would make a difference as a people and
7 individuals in the quality of life in the African American community; and

8 WHEREAS, HHS has made eliminating health disparities affecting racial and ethnic
9 minority populations a critical goal of Healthy People 2010, the nation's public health agenda
10 for the current decade. The average life expectancy for African Americans at birth is 71.8
11 years, compared to 77.4 years for whites, according to the most recent statistics from HHS's
12 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. African Americans are twice as likely to die
13 from diabetes than whites, and the infant mortality rates for African American children are
14 twice as high as for white infants; and

15 WHEREAS, HHS and ABC hope to encourage hundreds of fraternal, social, religious,
16 health, and community based organizations, local health departments, and radio stations to
17 take part in "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day" by organizing screenings, health fairs,
18 and other events promoting health and wellness. Already, 38 national organizations have
19 signed on as partners, ABC Radio Networks' Tom Joyner, nationally syndicated radio
20 personality and host of the Tom Joyner Morning Show, cochairs the national campaign; and

21 WHEREAS, The Tom Joyner Morning Show can be heard daily on over 100 of ABC Radio
22 Urban Advantage Network affiliates and around the world on the American Forces Radio
23 and Television Service, and that ABC Radio Urban Advantage Network reaches 17 million
24 African Americans weekly.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 this body recognizes and supports "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day."