

House Resolution 1557

By: Representatives Smyre of the 132nd, Jackson of the 161st, Hugley of the 133rd, Randall of the 138th, and Williams of the 165th

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the free flow of information between physicians and patients about whether
2 switching medication will provide the same or a superior result between name brand, if
3 available, and generic medication; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, FDA-approved generics can be safe and effective and often represent an
5 opportunity for much needed health care cost savings, especially to low-income patients with
6 minimal to no insurance; and

7 WHEREAS, generic brand medicines do not always meet the need for the individual patient,
8 and patient cases must be handled on a case-by-case basis; and

9 WHEREAS, patients should receive the best health care, regardless of race or income level,
10 and should be prescribed medication that will provide optimal results; and

11 WHEREAS, the patient-health practitioner relationship relies on the confidential, honest, and
12 transparent exchange of information; and

13 WHEREAS, physicians or health practitioners who receive financial incentives to prescribe
14 certain medications strain that relationship when patients are not informed of practitioners'
15 financial incentives; and

16 WHEREAS, the longevity, quality of life, and continued health of all people in this society
17 depend on quality health care and prescription medicines; and

18 WHEREAS, the death rate due to cardiovascular disease among African Americans is
19 highest among all racial and ethnic groups in the United States, and 40 percent of African
20 American adult men and women have some form of heart disease; and

1 WHEREAS, the cost of health care and prescription medicines may cause access issues for
2 individuals of limited means; and

3 WHEREAS, it is in the public's interest for states to exercise their powers to provide their
4 citizens with means and methods of improving access to health care and prescription
5 medicines; and

6 WHEREAS, hundreds of patient assistance programs are currently offered by drug
7 manufacturers and other private and public programs to provide help to low-income patients
8 who lack prescription drug coverage.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
10 the members of this body encourage physicians to take steps to ensure transparency when
11 physicians or other health practitioners receive financial compensation for clinical decisions.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body support the complete
13 disclosure of information on all drugs that are available and the benefits of each so that both
14 the physician and the patient can make the decision together.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body encourage the appropriate
16 state agencies and boards to examine the status of access to quality health care, including
17 prescription medicines, by African Americans in this state.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members strongly support efforts to improve and
19 publicize information on both public and private health care and prescription drug programs
20 that can help improve access for patients in need.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these efforts should include foreign language education
22 and outreach programs, if necessary, to facilitate enrollment in these programs.

23 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that because the ability of African Americans to access health
24 care, including prescription medicines, varies from state to state, individual states should
25 craft responses that best address the needs of their respective communities.