

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 103

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23—Relative to minority enrollment in medical schools.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 12, 1997.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 23, Polanco. Minority enrollment in medical schools.

This measure would request the University of California medical schools to report to the Regents of the University of California and to the California Postsecondary Education Commission the current status of ethnic minority enrollment in their respective schools, as specified. The measure also would request the commission, to the extent sufficient nonstate funds are available and in consultation with the California Research Bureau and the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, to develop recommendations for innovative strategies and incentive programs that will encourage physicians and other health care professionals to practice in geographic areas where health needs are underserved, as specified, and to issue a report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than June 30, 1998.

WHEREAS, Recent data indicates that California's medical schools have experienced a 19-percent reduction in underrepresented minority enrollment between 1995 and 1996; and

WHEREAS, This precipitous decline is inconsistent with both the spiraling growth of the state's underrepresented population, as well as with nationwide statistics that reveal a decline in minority enrollment in medical schools of only 5 percent over the same period; and

WHEREAS, According to a May 1996 report in the New England Journal of Medicine, recent studies reveal that physicians who are members of minority groups serve a critical role in serving California's minority populations due to their proclivity for electing to practice in communities with high proportions of minority residents; and

WHEREAS, Data also indicates poor urban communities have fewer physicians per capita than do more affluent areas; and

WHEREAS, Even among the state's rural areas, which, according to survey data, have 40 percent fewer physicians overall than urban areas, the supply of physicians was found to be lowest in areas with high percentages of underrepresented minorities; and

WHEREAS, Access to medical care for all California residents and all communities regardless of considerations of race, income, or geography should be a high priority policy goal; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the University of California medical schools report to the Regents of the University of California and the California Postsecondary Education Commission the current status of ethnic minority enrollment in their respective schools; and be it further

*Resolved,* That this report shall include information on the number of underrepresented students who have applied, been admitted, and enrolled during the period from 1985 to 1997, inclusive, as well as a summary of the efforts made during this period to increase the representation of those student groups; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the State of California shall strive to broaden the diversity of enrollment in the area of primary care at the University of California medical schools; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the California Postsecondary Education Commission, to the extent sufficient nonstate funds are available and in consultation with the California Research Bureau and the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, shall develop recommendations for innovative strategies and incentive programs that will encourage physicians and other health care professionals to practice in geographic areas where health needs are underserved; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the California Postsecondary Education Commission, in developing its recommendations, shall assess the extent to which academic and administrative policies and programs currently employed in California's medical schools require modifications to achieve the goal of educational access to health professions for future physicians who are likely to provide health care for all California communities, including those that are underserved; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the California Postsecondary Education Commission shall consult with representatives of California medical schools, both public and private, educators representing other academic segments, health care professionals, economists, and experts from national associations and research centers for the purpose of determining factors that explain the reasons that health care professionals choose not to practice in underserved communities; and be it further

*Resolved,* That it is the intent of the Legislature that the California Postsecondary Education Commission, in consultation with the California Research Bureau and the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, shall issue a report to the Governor and



the Legislature containing its findings and recommendations regarding these matters no later than June 30, 1998; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor, the University of California, the California Postsecondary Education Commission, the California Research Bureau, and the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

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