

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997

H.R. 1028

4
5 By: Representative Willems

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8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

9 REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE
10 AND LABOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY
11 OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A HEALTH EMERGENCY ACCESS
12 RESPONSE TEAM (HEART) WITHIN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 REQUESTING A STUDY TO DETERMINE
16 FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTATION OF A
17 HEALTH EMERGENCY ACCESS RESPONSE TEAM.

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19 WHEREAS, the spirit of volunteerism is vital to helping areas affected
20 by disasters to recover to a state of normalcy; and

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22 WHEREAS, health care professionals are vital to the maintenance of human
23 life and well-being in the aftermath of large-scale disasters; and

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25 WHEREAS, health care professionals need back-up from other health
26 providers in the aftermath of large-scale disasters; and

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28 WHEREAS, former and retired military independent-duty corpsmen/field
29 combat medical sergeants and former and retired medical services officers of
30 the Central Intelligence Agency have a great deal to offer the State of
31 Arkansas in the aftermath of large-scale disasters; and

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33 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas and its citizenry would greatly benefit
34 from this health professional resource base in the aftermath of large-scale
35 disasters in the future,

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1 NOW THEREFORE,
2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FIRST GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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5 That the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor is
6 requested to conduct a study of the following issues in regard to the Health
7 Emergency Access Response Team (HEART) concept:

8 (1) Should the Arkansas Office of Emergency Services and/or the
9 Arkansas Military Department establish a database of health care professionals
10 willing to volunteer their professional services in areas of the state that
11 are deemed to be affected by severe, large-scale disasters;

12 (2) Should these volunteers be responsible for triage and the immediate
13 trauma care efforts in the affected region, or should they be brought in
14 approximately twenty-four hours after such catastrophe occurs in order to
15 temporarily relieve and assist over-burdened and fatigued health care staff
16 already serving in the affected region;

17 (3) Should the Arkansas Military Department provide for transportation,
18 shelter, and environmental/climatic clothing as may be necessary to these
19 health care professional volunteers;

20 (4) Should these health care professional volunteers be deemed to be
21 personal representatives of the Governor and the General Assembly;

22 (5) Should former/retired military independent-duty corpsmen/field
23 combat medical sergeants and former/retired medical services officers of the
24 Central Intelligence Agency be allowed to practice their medical skills as
25 volunteers in the affected disaster region for the duration of such disaster
26 under the supervision of a licensed physician.

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Arkansas Office of Emergency Services,
29 the Arkansas Military Department, the office of Governor, and the Arkansas
30 Department of Health should assist the House Committee on Public Health,
31 Welfare and Labor in conducting this study.

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