

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025

SR 2

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5 By: Senator Irvin  
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## 8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 TO CONGRATULATE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAL SOCIETY; AND TO  
10 CELEBRATE 2025 AS "THE YEAR OF THE ARKANSAS  
11 PHYSICIAN".  
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### 14 **Subtitle**

15 TO CONGRATULATE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAL  
16 SOCIETY; AND TO CELEBRATE 2025 AS "THE  
17 YEAR OF THE ARKANSAS PHYSICIAN".  
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19 WHEREAS, one hundred fifty (150) years ago, in October 1875, two  
20 hundred twenty-five (225) Arkansas physicians formed what is now the Arkansas  
21 Medical Society; and  
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23 WHEREAS, from the inception of the Arkansas Medical Society, the  
24 physician members of the Arkansas Medical Society have made it their mission  
25 to advance the art and science of medicine and improve the health and well-  
26 being of the citizens of the State of Arkansas; and  
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28 WHEREAS, over the past one hundred fifty (150) years, the physicians of  
29 the Arkansas Medical Society have been instrumental in addressing the health  
30 needs of our state, and the monumental efforts of these physicians, while  
31 often obscured by the passage of time, deserve our lasting appreciation; and  
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33 WHEREAS, the efforts of the physicians of the Arkansas Medical Society  
34 include:

35 (1) The creation of the state's first State Board of Health in  
36 1879;



- 1                   (2) The development of the first medical licensing laws in 1893  
2 and 1903;
- 3                   (3) The establishment of the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanitarium in  
4 1909;
- 5                   (4) Educational efforts to alleviate typhoid fever and malaria  
6 in 1917;
- 7                   (5) The creation of the Medical Practice Act in 1929;
- 8                   (6) The creation of Arkansas Blue Cross in 1948;
- 9                   (7) Sponsorship of the statewide polio vaccination program in  
10 1958; and
- 11                   (8) Supporting the establishment of what is now the College of  
12 Medicine of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; and
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14           WHEREAS, throughout the years, the physicians of the Arkansas Medical  
15 Society have supported the General Assembly in its efforts to enact  
16 legislation designed to improve public health and access to appropriate  
17 medical care, including:

- 18                   (1) The Patient Protection Act of 1995;
- 19                   (2) The Arkansas Clean Indoor Air Act of 2006;
- 20                   (3) The development of the statewide trauma system in 2009; and
- 21                   (4) Common-sense reforms designed to reduce burdensome insurance  
22 carrier practices that delay the delivery of medical care; and
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24           WHEREAS, during the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Arkansas  
25 Medical Society, in cooperation with the Governor's office, organized a  
26 statewide distribution effort to provide personal protective equipment to  
27 medical clinics struggling to safely care for patients; and

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29           WHEREAS, for over fifty (50) years, the Arkansas Medical Society has  
30 provided volunteer medical care to members of the House of Representatives  
31 and the Senate, State Capitol staff, and visitors to the State Capitol during  
32 sessions of the General Assembly through what is now known as the "Doctor of  
33 the Day" program; and

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35           WHEREAS, the Dr. H. Elvin Shuffield Capitol Infirmary, sponsored by the  
36 Arkansas Medical Society and located on the third floor of the State Capitol,

1 was officially dedicated by the Seventy-Second General Assembly on April 16,  
2 1980,

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4 NOW THEREFORE,

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
6 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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8 THAT the Senate congratulate the Arkansas Medical Society for its one  
9 hundred fifty (150) years of service to the people of Arkansas and celebrate  
10 2025 as "The Year of the Arkansas Physician".

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