

By: Senator L. Chesterfield

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO SUPPORT INCREASING DIVERSITY IN CLINICAL TRIAL
PARTICIPATION.

Subtitle

TO SUPPORT INCREASING DIVERSITY IN
CLINICAL TRIAL PARTICIPATION.

WHEREAS, developing new medicines and other treatment options is a complex process that involves clinical trials to explore whether a medical strategy, treatment, or device is safe and effective for humans; and

WHEREAS, volunteer participation is necessary to evaluate potential therapies for safety and effectiveness in clinical studies; and

WHEREAS, often the enrolled patient population is not representative of United States demographics or subpopulations impacted by a particular disease; and

WHEREAS, groups such as African-Americans and Hispanics are significantly underrepresented in clinical trials, with African-Americans representing 12% of the United States population but only 5% of clinical trial participants, and Hispanics comprising 16% of the population but only 1% of clinical trial participants, according to a 2011 study by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and

WHEREAS, despite a Congressional mandate that research financed by the National Institutes of Health include minorities, nonwhites comprise fewer



than 5% of participants in National Institutes of Health supported studies;
and

WHEREAS, certain medical conditions have been known to affect particular demographic groups more than others, including Type II diabetes for which African-Americans and Hispanics are twice as likely to be diagnosed on average; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the sickle cell trait is common among African-Americans and occurs in about 1 in 12, and sickle cell disease occurs in about 1 out of every 500 African American births compared to about 1 out of every 36,000 Hispanic births; and

WHEREAS, race and ethnicity have also been demonstrated to affect the efficacy of a response to certain drugs, such as anti-hypertensive therapies in the treatment of hypertension in African-Americans and anti-depressants in Hispanics; and

WHEREAS, many barriers exist that account for the low rate of participation among minority communities, including patient fear of experimentation and lack of understanding or education with regard to the importance of clinical trials in creating new treatments and cures,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate of the Ninetieth General Assembly supports ensuring that diverse populations of different racial and ethnic backgrounds are represented in clinical research, as this is an important issue that warrants the dedication of additional community resources to increase awareness on the importance of participating in clinical trials, provide support for patient participation, and promote effective partnerships with the community to achieve solutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon its adoption, a copy of this

resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, and other federal and state government officials as appropriate.