

By: Representative L. Johnson

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO CONGRATULATE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAL SOCIETY; AND TO
CELEBRATE 2025 AS "THE YEAR OF THE ARKANSAS
PHYSICIAN".

Subtitle

TO CONGRATULATE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAL
SOCIETY; AND TO CELEBRATE 2025 AS "THE
YEAR OF THE ARKANSAS PHYSICIAN".

WHEREAS, one hundred fifty (150) years ago, in October 1875, two hundred twenty-five (225) Arkansas physicians formed what is now the Arkansas Medical Society; and

WHEREAS, from the inception of the Arkansas Medical Society, the physician members of the Arkansas Medical Society have made it their mission to advance the art and science of medicine and improve the health and well-being of the citizens of the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, over the past one hundred fifty (150) years, the physicians of the Arkansas Medical Society have been instrumental in addressing the health needs of our state, and the monumental efforts of these physicians, while often obscured by the passage of time, deserve our lasting appreciation; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the physicians of the Arkansas Medical Society include:

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



- (2) The development of the first medical licensing laws in 1893 and 1903;
- (3) The establishment of the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanitarium in 1909;
- (4) Educational efforts to alleviate typhoid fever and malaria in 1917;
- (5) The creation of the Medical Practice Act in 1929;
- (6) The creation of Arkansas Blue Cross in 1948;
- (7) Sponsorship of the statewide polio vaccination program in 1958; and
- (8) Supporting the establishment of what is now the College of Medicine of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, the physicians of the Arkansas Medical Society have supported the General Assembly in its efforts to enact legislation designed to improve public health and access to appropriate medical care, including:

- (1) The Patient Protection Act of 1995;
- (2) The Arkansas Clean Indoor Air Act of 2006;
- (3) The development of the statewide trauma system in 2009; and
- (4) Common-sense reforms designed to reduce burdensome insurance carrier practices that delay the delivery of medical care; and

WHEREAS, during the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Arkansas Medical Society, in cooperation with the Governor's office, organized a statewide distribution effort to provide personal protective equipment to medical clinics struggling to safely care for patients; and

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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