

***Resolution to ask Congress to pass S. 1028 and its companion bill H.R. 1734 to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Men's Health***

**WHEREAS**, male morbidity and mortality from preventable causes is substantial, with significant and alarming disparities among subpopulations of men based on race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status; and

**WHEREAS**, a silent health crisis is affecting the health and well being of American men; and

**WHEREAS**, this health crisis is of particular concern to men but is also a concern for women, especially those who have fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Center for Health Statistics has shown that men have higher age-adjusted death rates than women for each of the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, men are almost twice as likely as women to die from heart disease and the incidence of stroke is over 10% higher in men than in women; and

**WHEREAS**, men are 50% more likely to die of cancer than women; and

**WHEREAS**, the life expectancy gap between men and women has steadily increased from one year in 1920 to 5 1/2 years in 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, since women live longer and tend to marry men older than themselves, 7 out of 10 "baby boom" women will outlive their husbands – many of whom can expect to be widows for 15 to 20 years; and

**WHEREAS**, compared with men, older women are three times more likely to be living alone, are nearly twice as likely to reside in a nursing home, and are more than twice as likely to live in poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, more than one-half the elderly widows now living in poverty were not poor before the death of their husbands; and

**WHEREAS**, studies show that the huge disparity between men and women is due in part to a lack of awareness, poor health education and the low number of male-specific health programs. Men are one-half as likely as women to visit a doctor for regular physician check-ups or to obtain preventative screening tests for serious diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, men's health is also a concern for employers who lose productive employees as well as pay the cost of medical care; and

**WHEREAS**, men's health is also a concern for Federal and State governments and society which absorb the enormous costs of premature death and disability, including the costs of caring for dependents left behind; and

**WHEREAS**, every state has formed a Commission to address women's issues or has established a women's health program, but only seven states have a Commission to address men's issues or a men's health program; and

**WHEREAS**, educating men, their families and health care providers about the importance of early detection of male health problems can result in reducing rates of mortality of male-specific diseases as well as improve the health of America's men and its overall economic well-being; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) advocates Government acknowledgment of Men's Health activities so that existing government health networks can be utilized to increase the health and well being of men; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ALEC supports and encourages national, state and local efforts to secure access and remove barriers to healthcare for men and their family members by supporting existing federal legislation (S. 1028 & H.R. 1734) and the passage of state legislation addressing men's health issues.