



HR1261

LRB095 20688 GRL 49063 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The medical community is united in its concern  
3 over the rapid spread of drug-resistant bacteria, including  
4 methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA); and

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WHEREAS, In August of 2007, the State of Illinois passed  
6 legislation requiring hospitals to screen all at-risk patients  
7 for MRSA; and

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WHEREAS, Leading experts on infection prevention and  
control in the nation, including the Association for  
Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology (APIC) and  
11 the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA),  
12 opposed legislation mandating active screening cultures for  
13 MRSA; and

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WHEREAS, A major study published in the Journal of the  
American Medical Association (JAMA) in March of 2008 found that  
widespread screening of patients for MRSA in a Swiss hospital  
17 did not reduce the number of hospital-acquired infections and  
18 was not cost effective; and

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WHEREAS, A study in the March 2008 issue of the Annals of  
Internal Medicine reported that screening all hospital  
patients for MRSA can sharply reduce hospital-acquired

1 infections; and

2 WHEREAS, Two research studies, published a week apart, have  
3 produced contradictory findings on the merits of active  
4 screening of patients for MRSA control; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
7 recommend a thorough and complete assessment by the Illinois  
8 Department of Public Health (IDPH) in conjunction with the  
9 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) into the  
10 effectiveness of the Illinois screening legislation for  
11 preventing the spread of MRSA in Illinois hospitals; and be it  
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That we request the submission of a final  
14 assessment to the Illinois House of Representatives on or  
15 before April 30, 2009.