



HR0221

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, A family of drug-resistant bacteria, that experts
3 say kills up to 50% of people infected, is spreading in Chicago
4 and elsewhere, prompting doctors and public health officials to
5 step up efforts to protect patients; and

6 WHEREAS, Infections caused by these germs - called
7 carbapenem-resistant enterobacteriaceae, or CRE - are still
8 rare, but are difficult and sometimes impossible to treat; no
9 one knows the exact number of CRE infections or deaths in
10 Illinois or nationwide, though the federal Centers for Disease
11 Control and prevention is working on a report that would
12 compile those statistics for the first time; and

13 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control says an increasing
14 percentage of germs in the entero-bacteriaceae family are
15 becoming resistant to the carbapenems antibiotics used as a
16 last-resort treatment for seriously-ill people; and

17 WHEREAS, A decade ago, 1% of these bacteria were resistant;
18 now 4% are resistant, while one type has increased from 2% to
19 10%; in all, more than 70 kinds of bacteria have developed
20 carbapenem resistance; and

21 WHEREAS, CRE are spread by unclean hands, but medical

1 devices, such as ventilators or catheters, increase the risk of
2 life-threatening infection, because they can introduce new
3 bacteria into the blood stream; and

4 WHEREAS, CRE have high mortality rates and kill up to half
5 of the people who get serious infections with them; CRE can
6 also spread their resistance to other bacteria; and

7 WHEREAS, Information about the number of CRE infections is
8 scarce, in part because only 6 states require health facilities
9 to report cases; the Centers for Disease Control has tracked
10 CRE from a single health care facility in 2001 to health care
11 facilities in at least 42 states; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we state our intent to raise public awareness about the
15 antibiotic-resistant CRE germ that is becoming a growing threat
16 to health facilities in the State of Illinois and urge the
17 citizens of this State to become informed about this emerging
18 risk; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we urge health facilities across the State
20 to promote proper hand washing by health care workers, remove
21 medical devices such as catheters as soon as possible, isolate
22 patients who are infected or carry the bacteria, and make sure

1 that health workers are using protective gloves and gowns when
2 touching patients with CRE; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we further urge health facilities to employ
4 a "detect and protect" strategy, which involves identifying the
5 presence of the organism and protecting other patients to
6 prevent its spread.