



HR0221 Enrolled

LRB098 11634 GRL 44077 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 221

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; and

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

15 WHEREAS, A decade ago, 1% of these bacteria were resistant;
16 now 4% are resistant, while one type has increased from 2% to
17 10%; and

18 WHEREAS, CRE are spread by unclean hands, but medical
19 devices, such as ventilators or catheters, increase the risk of
20 life-threatening infection, because they can introduce new
21 bacteria into the blood stream; and

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

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

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we state our intent to raise public awareness about the
12 antibiotic-resistant CRE germ that is becoming a growing threat
13 to health facilities in the State of Illinois; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That we urge health facilities across the State
16 to promote proper hand washing by health care workers, remove
17 medical devices such as catheters as soon as possible, and
18 follow current CDC recommendations regarding use of personal
19 protective equipment; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we further urge health facilities to employ
21 a "detect and protect" strategy, which involves identifying the

1 presence of the organism and protecting other patients to
2 prevent its spread.