

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6006

A RESOLUTION concerning women and cardiovascular disease.

WHEREAS, The term “heart attack” in the public’s mind is something that happens to an otherwise healthy man who suffers intense chest pain and accompanying pain radiating down his arms who is rushed to the hospital for emergency medical care; and

WHEREAS, The public is unaware that the No. 1 killer of American women in all racial and ethnic groups is cardiovascular disease, which includes heart disease, heart attack and stroke. Cardiovascular disease kills about 500,000 women a year. Fifty thousand more women than men die each year from this condition. While many women worry about breast cancer, cardiovascular disease kills more than 10 times as many women each year; and

WHEREAS, A lack of knowledge exists among women, especially those who are young, Hispanic and African-American, about the deadliness of cardiovascular disease, and these women have a 69 percent higher death rate from heart disease compared to Caucasian women. A lack of attention to this condition by our doctors is indicated also as fewer than 50 percent of all female patients have had their risk factors reliably assessed, treated or controlled. Women are 20 percent more likely than men to die in the hospital following a heart attack. Within one year of a heart disease diagnosis, 38 percent of women will die compared with 25 percent of men. Also, a greater number of women are more likely to have a second heart attack within four years of their first heart attack than men; and

WHEREAS, The typical symptoms of heart attack in women are angina, breathlessness, chronic fatigue, dizziness, heart fluttering and gastric upset. These symptoms differ from what men experience and the general public is not aware of these differences; and

WHEREAS, Women on the whole are more sensible about health care than men; they are fortunate in that they outlive men by about eight years. Women can reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease by adopting a healthy lifestyle consisting of exercising and eating healthy foods, and such lifestyle has the additional benefit of helping to control conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and obesity: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That the body encourages women to become more aware of the dangers their gender suffers from cardiovascular disease and urges health care providers to be more vigilant in screening and treating women for cardiovascular disease; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and to the President of the Kansas Medical Association.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*