

By: Betty Streckfuss, Jetta Roberts
Paula Johnson, and Bobby Southwood
Committee Assigned: Education

R 66

RESOLUTION

Require Education/Training and Periodic Re-certification of Medical and Health Care Professionals in Geriatric Medicine and Issues of Aging

A RESOLUTION TO: Require formal classes and clinical training in Geriatrics of all students in medical, nursing, dental, and other schools of health care training, and amend the 2005-2010 Texas State Health Plan to include regular mandatory recertification of Health Care Workers performing any care, procedure, or service related to treatment of Seniors, 60 and older.

WHEREAS, There are more than 3 million older Texans today and growing; and geriatric health care professionals involved in health care of seniors in Texas are already at a dangerous minimal level, ranking Texas far below the national top 50 in this specialty; and

WHEREAS, General practitioners may be inadequately trained to diagnose and treat illnesses when symptoms and responses are unique to their age, resulting in intragenic trauma; and errors in all services pertinent to senior care are increasing annually in severity and number; and

WHEREAS, Nationwide, the average older adult received upward of 25 prescriptions each year from various physicians of multiple specialties rather than under coordination of one certified geriatric care provider, resulting in excessive dosages unsuitable for seniors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 11th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourage and strongly recommend that the 80th Texas Legislature pass legislation to require, as a condition of licensure, certification or re-certification of Health Care Professionals, education and training in issues related to care and treatment of the aging.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 13th day of September, 2006, by the Education Committee.

Bobby Southwood, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED this 14th day of September, 2006, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

Charlotte Parks, Speaker

ATTEST:

Carlos Higgins, Secretary