

1995 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 368

Requesting that the Commonwealth's medical schools, health care professionals, professional associations, health-related agencies, and health regulatory boards assist in educating the public and practitioners on acute and cancer pain management.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 7, 1995

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 22, 1995

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee to Study the Commonwealth's Current Laws and Policies Related to Acute and Cancer Pain Management was established pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution No. 72 of 1994 and has completed a demanding study schedule during the 1994 interim; and

WHEREAS, the complexities of the issues related to pain management have surprised and interested the members; and

WHEREAS, among the issues before the joint subcommittee is the lack of understanding and knowledge among health care providers about the laws related to this subject and about the current state of pain management practice; and

WHEREAS, the welfare of patients who live with unceasing severe pain must be considered and, in the interest of preventing future patients from experiencing the suffering that many have known, the joint subcommittee hopes to initiate educational initiatives by existing organizations and agencies; and

WHEREAS, although the joint subcommittee knows that fiscal constraints will not allow any new initiatives among relevant state agencies, the joint subcommittee wishes to urge the health regulatory boards, the Board of Health, and the medical schools to use existing newsletters or other publications to assist in promoting knowledge of appropriate pain management; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the University of Virginia School of Medicine; the Medical College of Virginia; all private professional associations, particularly the Medical Society of Virginia; all private practitioners of medicine, dentistry, nursing, psychology, podiatry, professional counseling, and physical therapy; all health care institutions and their associations, including the Virginia Hospital Association and the Virginia Health Care Association; and all relevant state agencies, including the Departments of Health and Medical Assistance Services and the Boards of Medicine and Dentistry as well as the Boards of Nursing, Psychology, and Professional Counseling cooperate and participate with the joint subcommittee in this educational effort.

The General Assembly also admonishes all of the above entities and any other interested parties to participate in the development and implementation of a pain management summit to be conducted if private cooperation and support can be obtained.

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