

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 469

Supporting the goals and ideas of National Time Out Day to promote the adoption of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations' universal protocol for preventing errors in the operating room.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 16, 2004

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SANTORUM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideas of National Time Out Day to promote the adoption of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations' universal protocol for preventing errors in the operating room.

Whereas according to an Institute of Medicine report entitled "To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System", published in 2000, between 44,000 and 98,000 hospitalized people in the United States die each year due to medical errors, and untold thousands more suffer injury or illness as a result of preventable errors;

Whereas there are more than 40,000,000 inpatient surgery procedures and 31,000,000 outpatient surgery procedures performed annually in the United States;

Whereas for the first time, nurses, surgeons, and hospitals throughout the country are being required by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations to adopt a common set of operating room procedures in order to help curb the alarming number of deaths and injuries due to medical errors;

Whereas the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations has developed a universal protocol, endorsed by more than 50 national healthcare organizations, which calls for surgical teams to call a “time out” before surgeries begin in order to verify the patient’s identity, the procedure to be performed, and the site of the procedure;

Whereas 4,579 accredited hospitals, 1,261 ambulatory care facilities, and 131 accredited office-based surgery centers will be required by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations to adopt the universal protocol beginning July 1, 2004;

Whereas the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses has created an Internet website and distributed 55,000 tool kits to healthcare professionals throughout the country to assist them in implementing the universal protocol; and

Whereas the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Hospital Association, and the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management are celebrating National Time Out Day on June 23, 2004, to promote the adoption of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organi-

zations' universal protocol for preventing errors in the operating room: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideas of National
3 Time Out Day, as designated by the Association of
4 periOperative Registered Nurses and endorsed by
5 the American College of Surgeons, the American So-
6 ciety of Anesthesiologists, the American Hospital As-
7 sociation, and the American Society for Healthcare
8 Risk Management, to promote the adoption of the
9 Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare
10 Organizations' universal protocol for preventing er-
11 rors in the operating room; and

12 (2) congratulates perioperative nurses and rep-
13 resentatives of surgical teams for working together
14 to reduce medical errors to ensure the improved
15 health and safety of surgical patients.

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