

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 130

BY SENATORS WALSWORTH, ALARIO, APPEL, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAMBERT, LONG, MARTINY, MIZELL, PEACOCK, RISER, GARY SMITH AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES HOFFMANN AND JACKSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to review the definition of abortion and the use of the term abortion for purposes of medical records when a woman has a spontaneous miscarriage.

WHEREAS, a spontaneous miscarriage is the unavoidable and untreatable process of naturally ending a pregnancy before the twentieth week of gestation; and

WHEREAS, according to national estimates, approximately fifteen to twenty percent of all pregnancies in the United States end in miscarriage; and

WHEREAS, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, roughly sixty percent of miscarriages occur when an embryo has an abnormal number of chromosomes during fertilization, a problem that happens by chance, not as a result of anything the parents did; and

WHEREAS, the devastation and grief associated with a miscarriage leave women to feel as though they had done something wrong to cause it; and

WHEREAS, the trauma is compounded by physicians, hospitals, clinics, health insurers, and other healthcare providers interchangeably using medical terminology such as abortion, spontaneous abortion, missed abortion, inevitable abortion, incomplete abortion, or septic abortion with spontaneous miscarriage; and

WHEREAS, towards the end of the last century, medical journals and healthcare professionals consciously began using the term spontaneous miscarriage instead of abortion as both an intuitive empathetic response to the stigma of abortion and as a reflection of legal, technological, professional, and social developments relative to women who experience miscarriage; and

WHEREAS, despite the evolution and clinical clarity of the use of the term spontaneous miscarriage, many women are horrified to find that the medical diagnosis or condition listed in their patient medical record indicates abortion; and

WHEREAS, although not technically incorrect based on customary and acceptable medical terminology, the use of the term abortion has a widely recognized modern day implication of intentionally causing the death of an unborn child; and

WHEREAS, charting, coding, and billing systems include Current Procedures Terminology (CPT) codes, International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 9th revision (ICD-9), diagnosis-related group (DRG) codes, and other diagnosis and procedure codes utilized in the United States healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, a conscious and collective assessment needs to be done at the highest level of regulatory authority in the United States to provide for definitive and distinctive use of the terms spontaneous miscarriage versus abortion.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to review the definition of abortion and the use of the term abortion for purposes of medical records when a woman has a spontaneous miscarriage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES