



THE NATIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
OF STATE LEGISLATORS

Documentation Related to S.B. 433/H.B. 607

Sen. Regis F. Groff, CO
President

RESOLUTION

Sponsor: Colorado State Senator Regis Groff, President of NBCSL

WHEREAS, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators is a leading advocate for quality health care for all citizens, and

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of private physicians' offices in some inner city and rural communities leading to reduced levels of care for minority and low-income population in these areas

WHEREAS, 50% more African-Americans than whites are likely to report a limitation in a major activity and are more likely to have missing extremities or higher rates of paralysis

WHEREAS, non-white races experience higher rates of workplace injury death than do whites

WHEREAS, African-Americans have a lower number of physician visits than whites despite their poorer health status

WHEREAS, insurance coverage and health services utilization data evidence barriers to access exist

WHEREAS, major risk factors and timely receipt of care are the two most important factors related to incidence, prevalence and mortality of chronic diseases

WHEREAS, physical therapists as specialists within the allied health professions can help address these unmet needs without a referral, by: providing an additional entry point into the medical health care system; by providing freedom of choice in health care professionals; by reducing consumer costs through the elimination of unnecessary referrals, by providing quicker, more timely care; by promoting prevention in industry, athletics and schools; by decreasing long-term care,

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the NBCSL urges the adoption of state legislation which permits access to physical therapists without a physicians referral.

RESOLVED, that the twenty-four state legislative black caucuses where direct access is not law, receive a copy of this resolution along with the attached model legislation.

Facts reported in "Health Status of Minorities & Low Income Groups: Third Edition," US Dept. of HHS, Public Health Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, 1991.