

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 44th Legislature (1993)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1041

By: Monson

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution relating to contributions and recommendations of the Oklahoma Geriatric Education Center (OkGEC); stating recognition and appreciation for the work of such Center; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the elderly represent a medically underserved population due to the fact that health care services which are available are not well suited to their needs; and

WHEREAS, in the next two decades, the elderly population in this state is projected to markedly increase; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to increase research, creative thinking, pilot demonstration projects, and education of present and future health professionals, to address the needs of the elderly citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, many obstacles exist which hinder the providing of adequate services to the elderly in this state including but not limited to the fact that:

1. Geriatrics requires a high degree of interdisciplinary collaboration and such efforts to develop interdisciplinary clinical, teaching, and research activities are frequently hampered by "turf" issues,
2. There is a serious shortage of faculty and other experts in geriatrics and gerontology,

3. The problems of rural health care affect the elderly to a greater extent than any other group,

4. Grant writing requires an exorbitant investment of time and effort and many smaller academic departments cannot afford to employ such specialists, and

5. Federal funding often goes to established centers which have the resources to successfully carry out such projects that require interdisciplinary collaboration on major projects; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Geriatric Education Center (OkGEC) has been able to make several recommendations for:

1. The removal of many of the obstacles specified in this resolution, and

2. The initiation of interdisciplinary collaboration on many projects involving the elderly citizens of this state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the outstanding contributions of the Oklahoma Geriatric Education Center (OkGEC) in providing for the many and varied needs of the elderly citizens of this state.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature appreciates the efforts made by the Oklahoma Geriatric Education Center (OkGEC) in making recommendations to eliminate obstacles which currently prevent the elderly citizens of Oklahoma, especially the frail elderly, from receiving the types of services well suited to their needs.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Director of the Oklahoma Geriatric Education Center (OkGEC), Dr. Marie Bernard, and to the Executive Council of the Oklahoma Geriatric Education Center (OkGEC).

