

A Resolution relating to rural health care; creating the Task Force on Rural Health Care to study and assess all relevant data relating to availability and delivery of health care services to citizens in the rural areas of this state; providing for membership and appointment; and requiring submission of report.

WHEREAS, the availability and delivery of health care is a matter of statewide concern; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the State of Oklahoma has a responsibility to citizens of rural areas of this state to ensure the availability and delivery of adequate health care services in the rural areas of this state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT there is hereby created until February 15, 1999, the Task Force on Rural Health Care. The Task Force shall be comprised of ten members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate. The President Pro Tempore of the State Senate shall select the chair from the members of the Task Force.

THAT the Task Force shall study and assess all available relevant data relating to the availability and delivery of health care services to citizens in the rural areas of this state. In performing its duties, the Task Force shall consider:

1. The impact of the establishment and operation of ambulatory surgical centers and other specialty health care facilities on existing hospitals and other health care facilities in this state;

2. The type of health care services offered by different types of health care facilities in this state;

3. The financial or staffing hardship which ambulatory surgical centers may have on any existing providers of essential surgical services;

4. The impact of the establishment and operation of ambulatory surgical centers and other specialty health care facilities on health care services for the medically indigent citizens of this state;

5. The number of citizens of this state who are medically indigent and the geographic distribution of those citizens;

6. The distribution of costs for medically indigent health care services between local, state, and federal units of government;

7. The level of health care services which are currently being provided by ambulatory surgical centers and other specialty health care facilities to the medically indigent citizens of this state; and

8. The possibility of conflict of interest that may occur if physicians own, directly or indirectly, a financial interest in an ambulatory surgical center or other specialty health care facility to which such physicians refer patients for health care services.

THAT the Task Force shall submit a report to the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate making recommendations for needed changes in existing statutory provisions regarding ambulatory

surgical centers and the delivery of health care services no later than February 1, 1999.

Adopted by the Senate the 28th day of May, 1998.

President of the Senate