

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 49th Legislature (2004)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION HCR1044:

Lindley

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the importance of properly treating phenylketonuria; urging health insurance coverage for certain medical foods and food products; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, phenylketonuria, also known as PKU, is a genetic metabolic disorder affecting approximately one in every 23,244 newborns in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, PKU prevents the body from properly metabolizing a certain amino acid found in protein foods; and

WHEREAS, when certain amino acids are not properly used by the body, they build up in the bloodstream and cause brain damage; and

WHEREAS, to prevent mental retardation and provide optimal nutrition for normal growth and development, a lifelong low-protein diet is required; and

WHEREAS, in Oklahoma there are publicly funded formula programs for children with PKU and for women with PKU who desire to become pregnant; and

WHEREAS, there are no programs that fund formula for adults not desiring a pregnancy or that assist families with low-protein foods; and

WHEREAS, the annual cost of formula for an adult with PKU is approximately \$5,000.00, and the annual cost of low-protein foods for a child with PKU is \$2,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the issue of insurance coverage for medical foods must be addressed to ensure that adults with PKU have the medical treatment necessary to remain healthy throughout their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the importance of improving care for individuals with phenylketonuria.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature urges health insurance companies that offer, issue, or renew a health benefit plan in the State of Oklahoma to include coverage for medical foods and food products for the treatment of PKU and other inherited metabolic diseases.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Alliance of American Insurers, the American Insurance Association, the Health Insurance Association of America, the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America, the National Association of Independent Insurers, the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents, the State Insurance Commissioner, the PKU Parent Support Group of Oklahoma, and the Children's PKU Network.

49-2-7485

MG

01/05/04