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Increasing Federal funding for research in the areas of the mechanisms of aging, diseases of older people, long-term care systems and services, and special populations

- 1 WHEREAS Americans 65 and older are a valuable national resource to be supported in their desire to live healthy, productive lives as long as possible;
- 2 WHEREAS America's seniors, many of whom suffer multiple aging dependent illnesses and chronic conditions, account for 40 percent of the national health care bill, a figure expected to soar as the baby boom generation ages;
- 3 WHEREAS research into diseases of older people, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, and Alzheimer's disease, has contributed to the well-being of Americans of all ages;
- 4 WHEREAS research and education have contributed to the improvement in quality of life for older Americans and are considered key to delaying the onset of major chronic diseases of aging, which rob many older Americans of their independence;
- 5 WHEREAS research into human aging offers an exciting alternative to our country's typical response to mounting health care bills determining who will pay the bills and how by seeking ways of preventing or reducing those bills; and
- 6 WHEREAS women, ethnic minorities, older persons, and other societal groups have often been excluded in aging research;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 1995 White House Conference on Aging to support policies that:

- 7 Achieve by the year 2000 an increased Federal funding level for aging research equal to or at least 1 percent of Federal health care expenditures for older Americans, consistent with recommendations of the Institute of Medicine (1991), the Federal Task Force on Aging Research (1995), and others. The research program will include:
 - Basic and applied biomedical, clinical, and behavioral/social health services, ethics, rehabilitation, and health promotion and disease prevention research, including how attitudes and values act as barriers to good health habits;
 - Population-based studies (rural and urban) of nutrition, physical activity and mobility, incontinence, dementia, and overall geriatric health promotion, to understand and project future demands for health care and social services and to identify future aging research topics;
 - Research to improve the quality, access, and cost-effectiveness of long-term care in institutional, home-based, and community-based settings;

Appendix D: Text of the Resolutions

- Women, ethnic and racial minorities, and other societal groups of older persons, as appropriate, in all aspects of aging research;
 - Increased research on mental health, mental health services, and mental disorders of the elderly;
 - An emphasis on outcomes-based research on common geriatric conditions, health care delivery mechanisms, chronic illnesses, and the impact of care on quality of life;
- 8 Improve financial and program support for training of investigators in aging research;
 - 9 Encourage private sector industry and non-profit organizations to augment research funding and education in aging on a long-term basis;
 - 10 Include underserved groups, such as women and ethnic minorities, as subjects in clinical research studies and increase research on morbidity among these groups;
 - 11 Increase funding to emphasize public awareness of research results which impact directly on individuals and health care service delivery.

