

News Release

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

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ALEC APPROVES RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF MEN'S HEALTH CARE

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 30, 2004 – The American Legislative Exchange Council's National Board of Directors has approved a new Model Legislation entitled, *The Resolution to Establish the Office of Men's Health*. This new resolution asks Congress to pass S. 1028 and its companion bill H.R. 1734 to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Men's Health.

“Educating men, their families and health care providers about the importance of early detection of male health problems can result in reducing rates of mortality of male-specific diseases,” said Jim Frogue, Director of ALEC's Health and Human Services Task Force. “This will also serve to improve the health of America's men and its overall economic well-being.”

The National Center for Health Statistics has shown that men have higher age-adjusted death rates than women for each of the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States. Men are almost twice as likely as women to die from heart disease and the incidence of stroke is nearly 20% higher in men than in women. Men's health should be seen as a real economic concern for Federal and State governments, which absorb the enormous costs of premature death and disability, including the costs of caring for dependents left behind. Seven out of ten “baby boom” women will outlive their husbands – many of whom can expect to be widows for fifteen to twenty years.

Therefore ALEC advocates Government acknowledgement of Men's Health activities so that existing government health networks can be utilized to increase the health and well being of men. ALEC also supports and encourages national, state and local efforts to secure access and remove barriers to healthcare for men and their family members by supporting existing federal legislation (S. 1028 & H.R. 1734) and the passage of state legislation addressing men's health issues.

“Every state has formed a Commission to address women's issues or has established a women's health program,” said Frogue. “But only seven states have a Commission to address men's issues or a men's health program.”

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is the nation's largest bipartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators with over 2,400 legislator members from all fifty states.