

2012 -- H 7857

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE RHODE ISLAND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION INTRODUCE LEGISLATION MAKING IT A CRIME OF MANSLAUGHTER FOR A DRUG COMPANY TO REFUSE TO MANUFACTURE CANCER DRUGS DUE TO PROFIT MOTIVATIONS

Introduced By: Representative Charlene Lima

Date Introduced: February 28, 2012

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, Millions of American citizens, including children, suffer from cancer. For
2 many of these sufferers, their survivability is at the mercy of their access to life-preserving drug
3 medications; and

4 WHEREAS, One example of a dire situation is the current shortage of the cancer drug
5 Methotrexate, a drug that often represents the difference between life and death for millions of
6 children suffering from Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, as well as a type of bone cancer called
7 Osteogenic Sarcoma. Many hospitals around the nation are once perilously close to running out
8 of Methotrexate; and

9 WHEREAS, Shortages can occur when a single manufacturer produces a certain drug
10 and then shuts down temporarily. A shortage may also take place when a drug manufacturer fails
11 to produce medication in large quantities because of small profit margins; and

12 WHEREAS, Shortages in the supply of cancer medications that result from drug
13 manufacturers' decisions to maximize their profits and that lead to the deaths of innocent patients
14 should be treated as a crime. Lives are literally at stake and it is beyond reprehensible for any
15 drug company to not produce these drugs due to concerns over profits; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
17 Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Congressional
18 Delegation introduce legislation making it a crime of manslaughter if a cancer patient dies as a

1 result of a drug company's refusal to manufacture a cancer drug due to profit motivations; and be
2 it further
3 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
4 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the members of the Rhode Island Congressional
5 Delegation.

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