

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-78

RE: C.R. NO. 19-144/H&SA

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION FOR ENDORSEMENT AND
ADOPTION OF THE FSM MEDICINE POLICY

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Third Special Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs to which was referred C.R. No. 19-144, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND ENDORSING THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA MEDICINE POLICY TO PROVIDE A GUIDE FOR THE PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR IN THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA TO REGULATE QUALITY ASSURANCE, RATIONAL SELECTION AND USE, DISPENSATION, PROCUREMENT, SUPPLY AND MANAGEMENT, RELATED HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this resolution are expressed in its title.

Your Committee held a hearing on November 17, 2015 the witnesses present included the Department of Health and Social Affairs, including the Acting Secretary and his key staff, and the Department of Justice. Your Committee was also very fortunate to have present the Directors of the State Departments of Health.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-78

RE: C.R. NO. 19-144/H&SA

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION FOR ENDORSEMENT AND
ADOPTION OF THE FSM MEDICINE POLICY

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

The Committee inquired as to whether all of the State Directors of Health had had the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed medicine policy and all answered in the affirmative. All the State Directors were in support of the proposed policy and stated that it was a necessary component of the hospital accreditation process. The State Directors also stated that having these standards in place would assist them with procurement and donations of medical supplies. There is still some cases of inappropriate or expired medicines being offered as donations.

The Committee requested and received a highlighted summary of the policy from the Department. The main areas covered are: medicine regulation and quality assurance, financing for medicines in the public sector (affordability), qualifications for the pharmaceutical personnel, medicine selection (essential medicine list, standard treatment guidelines), medicine procurement and supply management and monitoring and evaluation.

During the hearing the Department and the State Directors of Health reiterated that the medicine policy was necessary to ensure the accessibility, availability and affordability of essential medicines in the FSM. The standards set by this policy would ensure the safety, efficacy and quality of medicines, further safeguarding all our citizens.

Under the new policy the Medicine Regulatory Unit would ensure that medicines are registered, properly inspected, provide medicine and poison information, adverse medicine reaction monitoring and recall of substandard and counterfeit medicine.

Under quality assurance only medicines qualified by the WHO would be licensed to be imported and a plan for testing of medicines in the medicine supply system would be developed.

Another component of the Medicine Policy would be a planning and budgeting section that would help ensure that

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-78

RE: C.R. NO. 19-144/H&SA

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION FOR ENDORSEMENT AND
ADOPTION OF THE FSM MEDICINE POLICY

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

essential medicines are maintained and cost containment measures are in place. A strategic plan would be developed regarding training for staff handling medicines.

Much of the Medicine Policy is devoted to medicine procurement and supply management. Once again, the State Directors also stated that they support a well-coordinated procurement and supply system at the National Department of Health and Social Affairs to ensure that public funds are available for medicine purchase.

Your Committee is satisfied with the testimony of the witnesses as to the benefits of the Medicine Policy. A full copy of this policy is available with the Speaker's secretary and was transmitted as an attachment to Presidential Communication No. 19-197.

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-144, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-78

RE: C.R. NO. 19-144/H&SA

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION FOR ENDORSEMENT AND
ADOPTION OF THE FSM MEDICINE POLICY

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bonsiano F. Nethon
Bonsiano F. Nethon, chairman

/s/ Ferny S. Perman
Ferny S. Perman, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, member

/s/ Florencio S. Harper
Florencio S. Harper, member

/s/ David W. Panuelo
David W. Panuelo, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, member

/s/ Alik L. Alik
Alik L. Alik, member