

RESOLUTION NO. 36-2008

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE-WIDE EFFORTS TO INCREASE PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ARIZONA LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS, AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER, CITY CLERK, CITY ATTORNEY OR THEIR DULY AUTHORIZED OFFICERS AND AGENTS TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES AND INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, a 2005 Physician Workforce Study documented that the State of Arizona is well below the national average for the number of physicians needed for the state, and the problem is only getting worse with the state's growth; and

WHEREAS, rural communities are particularly hard hit with the physician shortage, with one county in the state having fewer than 60 physicians per 100,000 population in comparison to 219 for the state, and 293 as the national average; and

WHEREAS, specialty physicians are even more difficult to recruit and retain, and the lack of such physicians has had a definitive impact on Cochise County, where the Sierra Vista Regional Hospital is the only medical provider in the county where a woman can have a baby; and

WHEREAS, a number of studies have already been conducted on this issue, and recommendations have been made to address the physician shortage, with no action on the part of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, access to health care is a critical quality of life issue for any community, and is also a key economic development component for business and military retention and attraction and therefore deserves municipal advocacy on the part of the City, and the Arizona League of Cities and Towns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, as follows:

SECTION 1

That settled policy supporting the development and advocacy of legislative issues critical to the community is hereby reaffirmed.

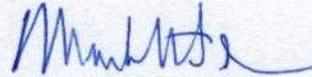
SECTION 2

The Mayor and City Council hereby authorize the submittal and advocacy of an appropriate resolution to the Arizona League of Cities and Towns supporting efforts to address the critical physician shortage in the State of Arizona.

SECTION 3

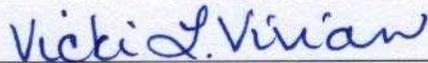
The City Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney, or their duly authorized officers and agents are hereby authorized and directed to take all steps necessary to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA, this 9th day of June, 2008.



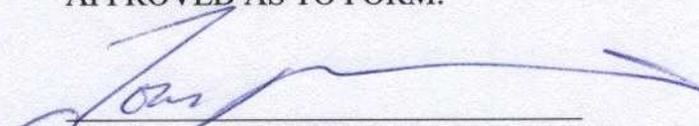
MARK M. FENN, Mayor

ATTEST:



VICKI L. VIVIAN, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



THOMAS A. BENAVIDEZ, City Attorney

**LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES AND TOWNS
2008 RESOLUTION**

Be it resolved that the Arizona League of Cities and Towns urges the Governor and the State Legislature to establish a Medical Malpractice Task Force to work with Insurance Providers, the Legal community, the Hospital community and the Medical community to develop a course of professional liability reform that is acceptable to all parties and will encourage physicians to practice in Arizona Cities and Towns.

Submitted by: City of Benson

- A. Purpose and Effect of Resolution:** With 219 physicians per 100,000 population, Arizona is well below the national average of 293 per 100,000. As the fastest growing state in the Union this shortage will only become more pronounced. The problem of recruitment and retention of Physicians is exacerbated by the excessively high cost of liability premiums to cover malpractice claims. As an example, in the past three years, out of the 16 physicians who have completed an obstetrics residency in Arizona, only five remained in state to practice medicine where professional liability insurance premiums for an OB/GYN can range from \$75,000 to over \$100,000 per year. Recently, an orthopedic surgeon moved out of an Arizona city to practice in another state where he saved \$80,000 in annual malpractice premiums. This resolution will raise the level of visibility of the issue and demonstrate to the elected officials that the physician shortage is becoming a detriment to quality of life in many Cities and Towns in Arizona.
- B. Relevance to Municipal Policy:** The health of Arizona's citizens depends on an adequate supply of physician service to meet their health care needs. Some of Arizona's Cities and Towns consider having meaningful choices for medical care and quality of life issue. The National League of Cities supports the efforts of local elected officials by developing and advocating for a federal legislative platform that provides children and youth with needed nutrition, health care, and mental health care.
- C. Fiscal Impact to Cities and Towns:** There should be no fiscal impact on Cities and Towns. To the contrary there will be an intrinsic gain to Cities and Towns in Quality of Life of their residents if accessibility to health care is improved.
- D. Fiscal Impact to the State:** There should be no fiscal impact on the State. In addition to an improvement in access to health care, there will be an improvement in the ability of the State to attract corporations who value health care access as a major factor in relocation to Arizona.
- E. Contact Information:** Martin Roush, Benson City Manager
Phone – 520-586-2245