

**RESOLUTION 90 – 06A**

**Title: Who Lives, Who Dies?**  
**Introduced by: Domenic R. Federico, MD, Kent County**  
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**Referred to: Reference Committee D**  
**House Action:**

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**Whereas, President Bush has requested \$2.68 billion in 2007 in addition to \$3.3 billion provided by Congress this year to protect the nation against pandemic influenza, and**

**Whereas, the World Health Organization (WHO) states 161 people have been infected by bird flu, and 86 have died, and**

**Whereas, 90 percent of the \$7.1 billion requested by President Bush from Congress is for vaccines, and the antiviral Tamiflu drug, and**

**Whereas, buying enough ventilators for a flu outbreak like that of 1918 would cost \$18 billion, and**

**Whereas, the only government agency that amasses ventilators is the Strategic National Stockpile (created in 1999 for use in a disaster or a terrorist attack) which only has 4,000 to 5,000 ventilators, and**

**Whereas, this day there are about 105,000 ventilators in America, and about 100,000 are in use during the regular flu season, and**

**Whereas, a national bird flu pandemic would need as many as 742,500 ventilators, and**

**Whereas, ventilators (seven models) cost from \$40 to \$30,000 (hospital ventilators), and**

**Whereas, guidelines are being suggested to determine in a crisis which patients should be taken off ventilators and allowed to die, and**

**Whereas, this is ethically and culturally unacceptable, as well as morally and religiously antithetical to our mores; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED:** That the potential bird flu pandemic disaster be widely purveyed to the state medical societies and the state hospital associations and the 3,142 counties under their purview; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That every county survey its ventilator resources including disposable emergency ventilators normally used by paramedics, pressured from oxygen tanks (cost \$50-100 each), also CPAP machines (\$300 – 600) – and the old iron lungs of some 50 to 60 years ago (they kept patients alive).

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**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**