



advanced initiatives
in medical simulation

S. 616/H.R. 855 “The Enhancing SIMULATION Act of 2009”

Representatives Randy Forbes (R-VA) and Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) reintroduced the “Enhancing SIMULATION (Safety In Medicine Utilizing Leading Advanced Simulation Technologies to Improve Outcomes Now) Act of 2009” (H.R. 855) that aims to advance the use of medical simulation. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) introduced identical legislation in the Senate (S. 616).

Medical simulation research has been conducted within the Department of Defense at the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center and within the Department of Veterans Affairs. The research shows that simulation can significantly improve the quality of medical care delivered. The Enhancing SIMULATION Act extends the benefits of advanced medical simulation technology to the civilian health care system.

Specifically, the Enhancing SIMULATION Act:

- Instructs the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to increase the use of simulation technologies and equipment in medical, nursing, allied health, podiatric, osteopathic, and dental education and training protocols through different programs.
- Creates Medical Simulation Centers of Excellence that will provide leadership and conduct research into enhancing and expanding the use of medical simulation technologies.
- Instructs the Director of AHRQ to authorize grants to:
 1. Purchase medical simulation technologies for training;
 2. Incorporate medical simulation technologies into curricula; and
 3. Study simulation-based methods in credentialing and accreditation.
- Establishes the Federal Medical Simulation Coordinating Council (FMSCC) to coordinate the Federal government’s activities in the research, development, deployment, and utilization of medical simulation technologies.
- Authorizes \$50 million for fiscal year 2010 and additional funding for following years.

Collectively, the provisions of the Enhancing SIMULATION Act of 2009 will significantly develop the use of simulation technologies and simulation-based skills training that will improve health outcomes, patient safety, and quality; reduce medical errors; and increase health care cost savings.