

MAR 08 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS TO TAKE IMMEDIATE AND DECISIVE ACTION TO SUPPORT
MIDDLE- AND LOWER-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN AMERICA.

1 WHEREAS, the United States faces an ongoing crisis of
2 inequality with middle- and lower-income households bearing the
3 brunt of economic hardship; and

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5 WHEREAS, access to affordable health care remains a
6 critical issue, with millions of Americans lacking adequate
7 coverage, resulting in preventable illnesses and deaths; and

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9 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic exacerbated
10 existing disparities, disproportionately impacting marginalized
11 communities and underscoring the importance of a robust public
12 health infrastructure and equitable access to health care
13 services; and

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15 WHEREAS, the nation continues to witness an alarming number
16 of traffic fatalities, shootings, suicides, and incidents of
17 domestic violence, highlighting the urgent need for
18 comprehensive solutions to address underlying social and mental
19 health issues; and

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21 WHEREAS, despite being one of the wealthiest nations in the
22 world, the United States ranks poorly in numerous health and
23 social indicators, reflecting systemic failures in addressing
24 the needs of its most vulnerable members of society; and

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26 WHEREAS, it is the duty of Congress to prioritize the well-
27 being of all citizens and enact legislation that promotes
28 fairness, justice, and opportunity for every individual; and

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30 WHEREAS, the United States is grappling with the staggering
31 costs of living, including skyrocketing housing prices,
32 exorbitant childcare expenses, and the ever-increasing burden of
33 student-loan debt, which disproportionately affects middle- and



1 lower-income families, hindering their ability to achieve
2 financial stability and social mobility; and

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4 WHEREAS, the nation also faces an escalating housing crisis
5 characterized by a severe shortage of affordable housing units,
6 rising rents, low wages that are incongruent with the respective
7 estimates of the cost of living in cities throughout the
8 country, and rampant homelessness, leaving millions of Americans
9 precariously housed or without shelter altogether and further
10 exacerbating economic insecurity and perpetuating cycles of
11 poverty; and

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13 WHEREAS, the urgency of this situation demands swift and
14 concerted action from Congress to address the multifaceted
15 challenges facing the middle- and lower-income households in
16 America; and

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18 WHEREAS, the failure to act decisively will perpetuate the
19 decline in the infrastructure of the American public health
20 apparatus and deepen the divide between social classes; now,
21 therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that Congress is urged to
26 take immediate and decisive action to support middle- and lower-
27 income households in America; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress is specifically urged
30 to:

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- 32 (1) Implement policies to ensure universal access to
33 affordable health care, including the expansion of
34 Medicaid and the establishment of a public option;
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 - 36 (2) Enact comprehensive gun control measures to reduce the
37 incidence of shootings and promote community safety;
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 - 39 (3) Invest in mental health resources and support services
40 to address the root causes of suicide and domestic
41 violence;
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