
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL HEALTH
CARE ACT.

1 WHEREAS, every person in the State of Hawaii deserves to
2 have high quality and affordable health care; and

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4 WHEREAS, the cost of health care in Hawaii and the nation
5 is escalating exponentially; and

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7 WHEREAS, health insurance premium costs and prescription
8 drug costs are rising rapidly; and

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10 WHEREAS, in 1974, Hawaii implemented tremendous health
11 insurance reform by establishing the Prepaid Health Care Act,
12 making Hawaii the first and only state in the United States to
13 initiate an employer-based health insurance program; and

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15 WHEREAS, once the Prepaid Health Care Act went into effect,
16 the uninsured rate dropped from thirty per cent to five per
17 cent, giving Hawaii the record for the fewest uninsured
18 residents of any state; and

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20 WHEREAS, unfortunately, the success has started to diminish
21 over the years and Hawaii is currently battling uninsured rates
22 of nearly ten per cent of the State's population; and

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24 WHEREAS, today, more than one hundred thousand Hawaii
25 residents are without any health care insurance coverage, and
26 more than twelve thousand of the uninsured are children; and

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28 WHEREAS, some Hawaii residents are under-insured, or unable
29 to use their insurance properly or even at all, because of
30 increasingly expensive deductibles and out-of-pocket co-payments
31 for outpatient visits, diagnostic tests, and prescription drugs,
32 among other factors; and

1 WHEREAS, there is a growing crisis in health care across
2 the United States of America, manifested in rising health care
3 costs, increased premiums, out-of-pocket spending, decreased
4 international business competitiveness, and massive layoffs; and
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6 WHEREAS, medical bills contribute to half of all
7 bankruptcies, and three-quarters of those who have filed for
8 bankruptcy had health insurance at the on-set of the illness or
9 injury; and
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11 WHEREAS, the increasing expense of Medicaid and the rising
12 costs of insuring state employees and teachers can best be met
13 not by limiting benefits, but by expanding them under a
14 national, publicly-funded health insurance program; and
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16 WHEREAS, the United States Representatives John Conyers and
17 Dennis Kucinich have introduced H.R. 676, the United States
18 National Health Care Act, in the United States House of
19 Representatives for the 111th Congress, and this Act would
20 provide a universal, comprehensive, single payer system of high
21 quality national health insurance; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that this Legislature
26 respectfully urges the United States Congress to enact H.R. 676,
27 the United States National Health Care Act; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
31 United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
32 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and
33 the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.