

JAN 23 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED ECONOMIC
STIMULUS INITIATIVE INCREASING FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR THE
MEDICAID PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, a majority of states, including Hawaii, are facing
2 a shortfall in their fiscal year 2009 budgets, forcing the
3 states to cut back on education, health care, and law
4 enforcement expenditures; and
5

6 WHEREAS, during times of economic hardship, the most
7 efficient way the federal government can assist states in need
8 is to fund countercyclical programs, which are programs that are
9 forced to expand to cover more people when weak economic times
10 lead more individuals to be eligible for the programs; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the federal government can further best assist
13 states by investing in existing state-federal programs because
14 the programs are ongoing, and administrative procedures and
15 staffs exist to quickly distribute additional funds; and
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17 WHEREAS, Medicaid is an existing federal-state
18 countercyclical program that provides federal funds for
19 essential medical services to families in need; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP)
22 represents the total share of Medicaid expenditures the federal
23 government pays based on a state's per capita income, thereby
24 determining the state's level of contribution; and
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26 WHEREAS, President Obama has called for a stimulus package,
27 which will include an increase in the FMAP for all states and
28 additional increases for states suffering from high unemployment
29 rates, thereby reducing states' shares of Medicaid costs; and
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31 WHEREAS, an increased FMAP is most effective if implemented
32 at the onset of an economic downturn and for a period of time



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1 that allows states to meet anticipated increases in Medicaid
2 costs for the duration of the economic downturn; and
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4 WHEREAS, the National Governors Association and the
5 National Conference of State Legislatures support the
6 President's proposed stimulus package including an increased
7 FMAP for all states and additional relief based on states'
8 unemployment rates; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
12 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature urges
13 the United States Congress to support the President's proposed
14 economic stimulus package, including an increase in Federal
15 Medical Assistance Percentages, and expedite its passage; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
19 United States Senate, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the
20 United States House of Representatives, the Speaker of the
21 United States House of Representatives, the Majority and
22 Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives,
23 and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.
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