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SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT FEDERAL LEGISLATION PROHIBITING
HEALTH INSURERS FROM DENYING COVERAGE TO VICTIMS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS A PRE-EXISTING
CONDITION.

1 WHEREAS, anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation,
2 religion, or gender can be subject to domestic violence; and
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4 WHEREAS, domestic violence can occur between couples who
5 are married, living together, or who are dating; and
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7 WHEREAS, domestic violence affects people of all
8 socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels; and
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10 WHEREAS, about one out of every four women in the country
11 will be physically assaulted or raped by an intimate partner at
12 some point in their lives and are more likely to be assaulted,
13 injured, raped, or killed by a male partner than by any other
14 type of assailant; and
15

16 WHEREAS, estimates of assaults on women by partners range
17 from approximately two to four million annually in the United
18 States; and
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20 WHEREAS, the majority of women killed at work are murdered
21 by a current or former intimate partner; and
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23 WHEREAS, it has been a common practice among health
24 insurers to deny coverage to victims of domestic abuse on the
25 grounds that domestic violence is a "pre-existing condition";
26 and
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28 WHEREAS, it is not uncommon for victims of domestic
29 violence to not report incidents of domestic violence for fear
30 of losing their health insurance coverage; and
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32 WHEREAS, according to the National Women's Law Center,
33 although forty-two states have enacted laws to prohibit health
34 insurers from classifying domestic violence as a "pre-existing



1 condition", Idaho, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota,
2 Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wyoming, and the
3 District of Columbia have not; and
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5 WHEREAS, a more comprehensive solution requires federal
6 legislation to ban this unfair practice to provide victims of
7 domestic violence with health care coverage; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
11 that Congress is urged to support federal legislation
12 prohibiting health insurers from denying coverage to victims of
13 domestic violence by classifying domestic violence as a pre-
14 existing condition; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
18 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
19 the United States House of Representatives, and the members of
20 Hawaii's congressional delegation.
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