

JAN 24 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REQUIRE ADULT DENTAL
COVERAGE UNDER MEDICAID AND DENTAL COVERAGE UNDER MEDICARE.

1 WHEREAS, oral health is a critical but often overlooked
2 component of overall health and well-being; and
3

4 WHEREAS, good oral health can be achieved through
5 preventive care, regular self-care, and the early detection,
6 treatment, and management of problems; however, many people
7 suffer from poor oral health, which can have adverse impacts on
8 a person's general health and quality of life, such as loss of
9 appetite, difficulty eating, tooth loss, and chronic pain; and
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11 WHEREAS, research has also identified associations between
12 chronic oral infections and diabetes, heart and lung disease,
13 stroke, and poor birth outcomes; and
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15 WHEREAS, the prevalence of dental disease and tooth loss is
16 disproportionately high amongst low-income individuals; and
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18 WHEREAS, poor oral health also affects older Americans; for
19 example, according to the American Dental Association, one fifth
20 of people over age seventy-five have not seen a dentist in the
21 past five years; and
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23 WHEREAS, Medicaid, the major health coverage program for
24 low-income Americans, provides a comprehensive mandatory dental
25 benefit package for children; however, federal law does not
26 require dental benefits for adults covered by Medicaid; and
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28 WHEREAS, although states are given the option to offer
29 adult dental benefits to Medicaid recipients, most states
30 provide only limited coverage; and
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32 WHEREAS, Medicare, which generally covers medical care for
33 Americans age sixty-five and older, does not include routine



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1 dental care; furthermore, many seniors lose coverage through
2 other insurance plans when they retire; and
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4 WHEREAS, lack of regular dental care can drive up overall
5 health care costs; and
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7 WHEREAS, with regular preventive care, most oral health
8 problems can be avoided or curtailed, but without proper oral
9 health care, people may seek treatment in emergency rooms, often
10 with problems that are more expensive to treat; and
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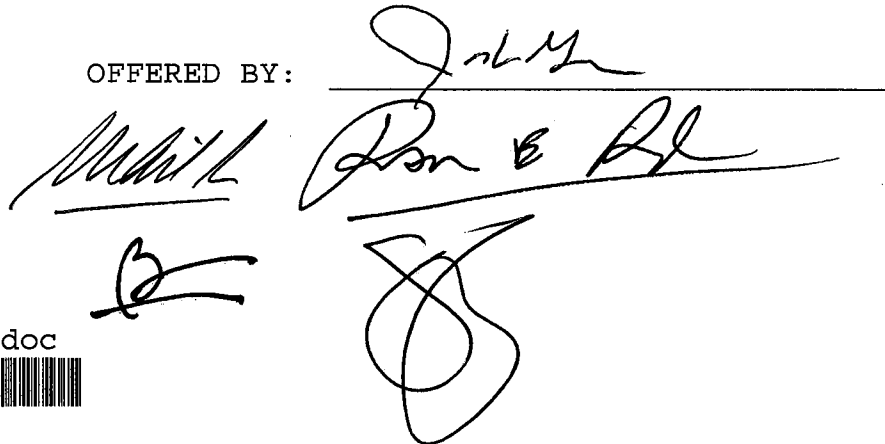
12 WHEREAS, according to the American Dental Association,
13 there are more than 2,000,000 visits each year to hospital
14 emergency rooms for dental pain, with uninsured individuals and
15 Medicaid enrollees seeking dental care via the emergency room
16 more frequently than those with insurance; and
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18 WHEREAS, including dental coverage under Medicaid and
19 Medicare would improve access to dental care, would improve oral
20 health amongst lower-income Americans and seniors, and could
21 ultimately have a positive overall impact in the form of
22 decreased Medicaid and Medicare spending; now, therefore,
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
26 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
27 Congress is urged to require adult dental coverage under
28 Medicaid and dental coverage under Medicare; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of
32 the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of
33 Representatives, and members of Hawaii's congressional
34 delegation.
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36
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OFFERED BY:

The text shows several handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is above a horizontal line. Below it are two more signatures, one to the left and one to the right, also above horizontal lines. There are additional scribbles below these lines.



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Breem Hart

