

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 260

To express the sense of the Senate that the Federal investment in programs that provide health care services to uninsured and low-income individuals in medically underserved areas be increased in order to double access to care over the next 5 years.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 24, 2000

Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. HATCH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. DEWINE, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. INOUE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations

RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Senate that the Federal investment in programs that provide health care services to uninsured and low-income individuals in medically underserved areas be increased in order to double access to care over the next 5 years.

Whereas the uninsured population in the United States continues to grow at over 100,000 individuals per month, and is estimated to reach over 53,000,000 people by 2007;

Whereas the growth in the uninsured population continues despite public and private efforts to increase health insurance coverage;

Whereas nearly 80 percent of the uninsured population are members of working families who cannot afford health insurance or cannot access employer-provided health insurance plans;

Whereas minority populations, rural residents, and single-parent families represent a disproportionate number of the uninsured population;

Whereas the problem of health care access for the uninsured population is compounded in many urban and rural communities by a lack of providers who are available to serve both insured and uninsured populations;

Whereas community, migrant, homeless, and public housing health centers have proven uniquely qualified to address the lack of adequate health care services for uninsured populations, serving over 4,500,000 uninsured patients in 1999, including over 1,000,000 new uninsured patients who have sought care from such centers in the last 3 years;

Whereas health centers care for nearly 7,000,000 minorities, nearly 600,000 farmworkers, and more than 500,000 homeless individuals each year;

Whereas health centers provide cost-effective comprehensive primary and preventive care to uninsured individuals for less than \$1.00 per day, or \$350 annually, and help to reduce the inappropriate use of costly emergency rooms and inpatient hospital care;

Whereas current resources only allow health centers to serve 10 percent of the Nation's 44,000,000 uninsured individuals;

Whereas past investments to increase health center access have resulted in better health, an improved quality of life

for all Americans, and a reduction in national health care expenditures; and

Whereas Congress can act now to increase access to health care services for uninsured and low-income people together with or in advance of health care coverage proposals by expanding the availability of services at community, migrant, homeless, and public housing health centers: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “Resolution to
4 Expand Access to Community Health Centers (REACH)
5 Initiative”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

7 It is the sense of the Senate that appropriations for
8 consolidated health centers under section 330 of the Pub-
9 lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b) should be in-
10 creased by 100 percent over the next 5 fiscal years in
11 order to double the number of individuals who receive
12 health care services at community, migrant, homeless, and
13 public housing health centers.

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