

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 234

Recognizing the importance of preserving the survival of essential urban hospitals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2003

Ms. KILPATRICK (for herself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. STARK, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. LEE, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. KILDEE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of preserving the survival of essential urban hospitals.

Whereas mission-driven urban hospitals provide the majority of care to cities' poor, low-income, sick, uninsured, and elderly populations and patients throughout the country;

Whereas the country relies on the specialized services provided by urban hospitals, including trauma and burn care, transplants, and neo-natal care;

Whereas the overwhelming majority of patients of many urban hospitals are covered by Medicare or Medicaid or have no insurance at all;

Whereas these hospitals rely on Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments, Indirect Medical Education (IME) payments, bad debt, wage index adjustments, and Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments for their survival;

Whereas on average, urban hospitals, particularly urban hospitals that treat a significant number of low-income, uninsured, and elderly patients, have unsustainable negative operating margins;

Whereas urban hospitals proudly provide some of these most difficult services in some of the most challenging environments; and

Whereas ensuring the financial viability of these essential hospitals is critical to maintaining the pillars of America's health care safety-net, urban hospitals: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring), That Congress should provide adequate Medi-*
- 3 *care and Medicaid reimbursement to ensure the continued*
- 4 *viability of these safety-net urban hospitals.*

