

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 410

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the enactment of legislation
that provides access to comprehensive health care for all Americans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. STARK, Ms. LEE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OLVER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. WYNN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the enactment
of legislation that provides access to comprehensive
health care for all Americans.

Whereas the United States has the most expensive health
care system in the world in terms of absolute costs, per

capita costs, and percentage of gross domestic product (GDP);

Whereas despite being first in spending, the World Health Organization has ranked the United States 37th among all nations in terms of meeting the health care needs of its people;

Whereas nearly 46 million Americans, including 8,000,000 children, are uninsured;

Whereas tens of millions more Americans are inadequately insured, including Medicare beneficiaries who lack access to meaningful prescription drug coverage and affordable long term care coverage;

Whereas racial, income, and ethnic disparities in access to care threaten communities across the country, particularly communities of color;

Whereas health care costs continue to increase, jeopardizing the financial and health security of working families and small businesses;

Whereas dollars that could be spent on health care are being used for administrative costs instead of patient needs;

Whereas the current health care system too often puts the bottom line ahead of patient care and threatens safety net providers who treat the uninsured and poorly insured; and

Whereas any health care reform must ensure that health care providers and practitioners are able to provide patients with the quality care they need: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that legis-
- 3 lation should be enacted by October 1, 2008, to guarantee

1 that every person in the United States, regardless of in-
2 come, age, or employment or health status, is entitled to
3 receive all medically necessary care under a system of care
4 that meets the following requirements:

5 (1) The system provides a single universal
6 standard of excellence in care applied to all patients.

7 (2) Under the system, care is affordable to all
8 individuals and families, businesses, and taxpayers
9 and there are no financial barriers to needed care.

10 (3) The system is as cost efficient as possible,
11 spending the maximum amount of dollars on direct
12 patient care.

13 (4) The system provides comprehensive bene-
14 fits, including benefits for mental health and long
15 term care services.

16 (5) The system promotes prevention and early
17 intervention.

18 (6) The system includes parity for mental
19 health and other services.

20 (7) The system eliminates disparities in access
21 to quality health care.

22 (8) The system addresses the needs of people
23 with special health care needs and underserved pop-
24 ulations in rural and urban areas.

1 (9) The system promotes quality and better
2 health outcomes.

3 (10) The system addresses the need to have
4 adequate numbers of qualified health care care-
5 givers, practitioners, and providers to guarantee
6 timely access to quality care.

7 (11) The system provides adequate and timely
8 payments in order to guarantee access to providers.

9 (12) The system fosters a strong network of
10 health care facilities, including safety-net providers.

11 (13) The system ensures continuity of coverage
12 and continuity of care.

13 (14) The system maximizes consumer choice of
14 health care providers and practitioners.

15 (15) The system is easy for patients, providers,
16 and practitioners to use and reduces paperwork.

17 (16) The system provides patients with suffi-
18 cient information to make informed decisions when
19 selecting their health care providers.

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