

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 58

Expressing the sense of Congress that any effort to reengineer the healthcare system in the United States should incorporate sustainable wellness programs that address the underlying causal factors associated with chronic disease.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 2009

Mr. LANGEVIN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that any effort to reengineer the healthcare system in the United States should incorporate sustainable wellness programs that address the underlying causal factors associated with chronic disease.

Whereas increases in costs related to providing health care for an aging population and the increasing number of people with chronic disease create a crisis for the healthcare system in the United States;

Whereas 23,600,000 individuals in the United States have been diagnosed with diabetes and 57,000,000 have been diagnosed with prediabetes;

Whereas 70,000,000 individuals in the United States have some form of cardiovascular disease, which is responsible for nearly 40 percent of all deaths in this country;

Whereas 64 percent of all individuals in the United States are overweight and more than 30 percent are obese;

Whereas overweight and obese individuals are at increased risk for developing many diseases, including cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes;

Whereas individuals in the United States are increasingly using lifestyle changes, including diet, exercise, smoking cessation, and stress reduction, to decrease their risk of developing serious healthcare problems and to restore health;

Whereas low-income families face an increased risk of developing chronic disease and do not have the resources necessary to avoid developing serious health problems related to such chronic disease;

Whereas there is a growing body of evidence that wellness programs that promote lifestyle changes can diminish the incidence and severity of chronic disease, provide a substantial return on investment, and reduce reliance on the conventional medical care system; and

Whereas the Federal Government has a responsibility to re-engineer the Nation's healthcare system to allow for the provision of adequate health care for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
 2 *concurring)*, That Congress should ensure that any re-  
 3 engineering of the healthcare system in the United  
 4 States—

1           (1) incorporates sustainable wellness programs  
2           that address the underlying causal factors associated  
3           with chronic disease;

4           (2) ensures that the public has access to strate-  
5           gies for improving individual health and increasing  
6           individual capacity to engage in activities of daily  
7           living through lifestyle change, including strategies  
8           relating to diet, exercise, smoking cessation, and  
9           stress reduction;

10          (3) provides patient-centered care—

11                 (A) that addresses personal health needs;  
12                 and

13                 (B) that uses a multidimensional approach  
14                 to encourage patients to improve their own  
15                 wellness through lifestyle changes and the use  
16                 of scientifically based therapies and outcomes-  
17                 based treatments that facilitate the inherent  
18                 ability of the human body to maintain and re-  
19                 store optimal health; and

20          (4) utilizes clearly defined standards to deter-  
21          mine when the implementation of wellness and  
22          health promotion activities will be useful for each  
23          patient based on the diet, exercise habits, individual

- 1 health history, and family health history of the pa-
- 2 tient.

