

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Committee on Procedures recommends the following:

2
3 **Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 House Memorial

6 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
7 Congress to change the existing formula for distribution
8 of Medicaid funds.

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10 WHEREAS, Florida is the fourth most populous state, with
11 16.4 million residents, and

12 WHEREAS, more than 2 million Floridians live in poverty and
13 approximately 2.8 million Floridians have no health insurance
14 whatsoever, and

15 WHEREAS, it is a moral incumbency that every Floridian have
16 access to quality, affordable health care, and

17 WHEREAS, impoverished Floridians have more difficulty
18 securing quality, affordable health care, especially if they are
19 uninsured, and

20 WHEREAS, Florida participates in the Federal Government's
21 Medicaid program to support those impoverished citizens and
22 ensure their access to health care, and

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23 WHEREAS, when Medicaid was created in 1965, one of its
24 purposes was to reduce the differences among the states
25 regarding their respective abilities to fund medical services
26 for the impoverished, and

27 WHEREAS, federal funds for Medicaid are distributed to the
28 states based on a funding formula that uses per capita income as
29 a key indicator of a state's ability to support its impoverished
30 population, and

31 WHEREAS, numerous reports from the United States General
32 Accounting Office dating back to the early 1980s demonstrate
33 that per capita income is a poor indicator of a state's funding
34 ability, and

35 WHEREAS, the use of per capita income assumes that states
36 with lower per capita incomes have higher rates of poverty,
37 which is a false assumption based on data from the United States
38 Census of 2000, and

39 WHEREAS, the funding formula does not account for states'
40 respective populations in poverty, the wealth distribution of
41 larger states, or the costs to serve Medicaid populations in
42 respective states, and

43 WHEREAS, the use of per capita income in the funding
44 formula fails to accurately reflect the needs of the more
45 populous states, and

46 WHEREAS, the use of a state's total taxable resources in
47 the formula, as recommended by the General Accounting Office,
48 would result in Florida receiving hundreds of millions of
49 dollars more of federal funds in distribution, which amounts to
50 its fair share, and

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51 WHEREAS, according to the 2002 financial data of the Agency
52 for Health Care Administration, uncompensated care in Florida's
53 hospitals is growing at the rate of 12 to 13 percent per year,
54 Medicaid caseloads grew almost 7 percent in the last fiscal
55 year, and the costs of the Medicaid program continue to grow at
56 an alarming rate, and

57 WHEREAS, because of the poor reimbursement rates offered to
58 Florida's physicians due to the disparity created by the funding
59 formula, many doctors have limited their provision of services
60 for Medicaid patients and some have stopped treating Medicaid
61 patients altogether, and

62 WHEREAS, this decline in the number of physicians who will
63 treat Medicaid patients threatens the quality and availability
64 of health care to impoverished Floridians, NOW, THEREFORE,

65

66 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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68 That the Congress of the United States is requested to pass
69 legislation to change the existing formula for the distribution
70 of Medicaid funds from a formula based on per capita income to
71 one based on total taxable resources and the poverty rate,
72 thereby providing a more equitable distribution of Medicaid
73 funds to the states and bringing the Medicaid program closer to
74 compliance with its stated legislative goal.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
76 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
77 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the

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78 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
79 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.