

## 1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress  
3 to change the existing formula for distribution of Medicaid  
4 funds.

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6 WHEREAS, Florida is the fourth most populous state, with  
7 16.4 million residents, and

8 WHEREAS, more than 2 million Floridians live in poverty and  
9 approximately 2.8 million Floridians have no health insurance  
10 whatsoever, and

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

13 WHEREAS, impoverished Floridians have more difficulty  
14 securing quality, affordable health care, especially if they are  
15 uninsured, and

16 WHEREAS, Florida participates in the Federal Government's  
17 Medicaid program to support those impoverished citizens and  
18 ensure their access to health care, and

19 WHEREAS, when Medicaid was created in 1965, one of its  
20 purposes was to reduce the differences among the states  
21 regarding their respective abilities to fund medical services  
22 for the impoverished, and

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

27 WHEREAS, numerous reports from the United States General  
28 Accounting Office dating back to the early 1980s demonstrate

29 | that per capita income is a poor indicator of a state's funding  
30 | ability, and

31 |       WHEREAS, the use of per capita income assumes that states  
32 | with lower per capita incomes have higher rates of poverty,  
33 | which is a false assumption based on data from the United States  
34 | Census of 2000, and

35 |       WHEREAS, the funding formula does not account for states'  
36 | respective populations in poverty, the wealth distribution of  
37 | larger states, or the costs to serve Medicaid populations in  
38 | respective states, and

39 |       WHEREAS, the use of per capita income in the funding  
40 | formula fails to accurately reflect the needs of the more  
41 | populous states, and

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

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

53 |       WHEREAS, because of the poor reimbursement rates offered to  
54 | Florida's physicians due to the disparity created by the funding  
55 | formula, many doctors have limited their provision of services

56 | for Medicaid patients and some have stopped treating Medicaid  
57 | patients altogether, and

58 |       WHEREAS, this decline in the number of physicians who will  
59 | treat Medicaid patients threatens the quality and availability  
60 | of health care to impoverished Floridians, NOW, THEREFORE,

61 |

62 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

63 |

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

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72 |       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
73 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
74 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
75 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
76 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.