

By Senator Aronberg

27-02008-09

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
urging Congress to pass legislation that establishes a
national universal health care program with a
comprehensive range of benefits.

WHEREAS, every person deserves access to affordable quality
health care, and

WHEREAS, the number of Floridians without health insurance
totals approximately 4 million, and

WHEREAS, in 2007, health care spending in the United States
averaged \$7,421 per person, the health care portion of the
national gross domestic product reached 16.2 percent, and health
care spending grew at 6.1 percent to \$2.2 trillion, and

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 the gross domestic product, and

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

WHEREAS, despite being first in spending, the World Health
Organization has ranked the United States health care system
37th among all nations, and

WHEREAS, among the 30 industrialized nations, only the
United States does not have a national universal health care
program, and

WHEREAS, studies have found that citizens of countries with
a national universal health care program have more physician
visits and hospital stays than in the United States, and

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30 WHEREAS, in January 2004, the Institute of Medicine of the
31 National Academy of Sciences issued a report calling for a
32 national universal health care program in the United States and
33 recommended that health care coverage be universal, continuous,
34 affordable, and sustainable for individuals and families, and
35 determined that such coverage should be designed to enhance the
36 health and well-being of citizens of the United States by
37 promoting access to high-quality health care that is effective,
38 efficient, safe, timely, patient-centered, and equitable, NOW,
39 THEREFORE,

40
41 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

42
43 That the Congress of the United States is requested to
44 enact legislation that provides for health care coverage for all
45 Americans that includes coverage for preventive health care,
46 physician services, dental care, hospital services, maternity
47 care, mental health services, long-term care, and prescription
48 medications and has affordable cost sharing and a reasonable
49 limit on out-of pocket expenses.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
51 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
52 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
53 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
54 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.