

By the Committee on Health Regulation; and Senator Jones

588-02491-10

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
urging Congress to create a nationwide Emergency Room  
Staffing Initiative.

WHEREAS, a crisis exists whereby an insufficient number of  
physicians and medical specialists are available to provide on-  
call emergency room support, and

WHEREAS, in order to provide a more stable health care  
system in America, an incentive must be created to encourage  
physicians and medical specialists to more actively participate  
in these on-call emergency room responsibilities as part of  
their hospital staffing duties, and

WHEREAS, an increased number of indigent care cases and  
patients without health insurance seeking medical attention has  
helped to discourage many practitioners and specialists from  
desiring to serve in on-call services in emergency rooms, and

WHEREAS, when combined with already dramatically reduced  
reimbursement rates, the staffing crisis is exacerbated, NOW,  
THEREFORE,

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

That the Congress of the United States is urged to create a  
nationwide initiative in order to remedy this staffing crisis by  
amending the nation's tax code to allow for all uncompensated  
emergency room work to be eligible as a charitable deduction  
against earned income for the practicing physician or medical  
specialist up to a maximum of \$100,000. Charges eligible for

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30 this deduction should be based on a rate equivalent to 200  
31 percent of the Medicare reimbursement rate at the time the  
32 service is rendered. In the absence of an applicable Medicare  
33 billing code, the charge for this deduction should be based on a  
34 fee not to exceed 100 percent of the average customary and  
35 reasonable charges allowed under private health insurance for  
36 any services rendered.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
38 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
39 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
40 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
41 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.