

By Senator Aronberg

27-00130-10

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
urging Congress to enact legislation that establishes
a national universal health care program having 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 that
have a national universal health care program benefit from more
physician visits and hospital stays than in the United States,

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30 and

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

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

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44 That the Congress of the United States is requested to:

45 (1) Enact legislation that provides health care coverage
46 for all Americans, that includes coverage for preventive health
47 care, physician services, dental care, hospital services,
48 maternity care, mental health services, long-term care, and
49 prescription medications, and that has affordable cost sharing
50 and a reasonable limit on out-of-pocket expenses; and

51 (2) Study all models and proposed systems and enact only
52 the model that is the simplest to administrate, has the least
53 amount of administrative overhead, reduces costs the most,
54 offers coverage that is more comprehensive than that which is
55 currently available on the market, and controls costs so that
56 benefits are sustainable.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
58 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the

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59 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
60 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
61 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.