

HM 7033

2017

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to establish Medicaid block grants.
4

5 WHEREAS, the Florida Medicaid program covers over four
6 million people at a cost of \$25.8 billion in fiscal year 2016-
7 2017, or 31 percent of the total state budget, and grows in cost
8 and enrollment each year, and

9 WHEREAS, nationally, the vast majority of the increase in
10 insurance coverage under the federal Patient Protection and
11 Affordable Care Act is due to increased enrollment in Medicaid,
12 not increased enrollment in employer-based or other private
13 coverage, and

14 WHEREAS, nationally, the Medicaid program is a stigmatizing
15 welfare program that achieves poor quality outcomes and
16 segregates taxpayer-supported, low-income patients from the
17 health coverage market used by privately supported patients, and

18 WHEREAS, the Medicaid program is a federally prescribed,
19 complex system of eligibility, financing, and service delivery
20 models, subject to extensive, complicated, prescriptive, and
21 outdated federal laws and regulations, and

22 WHEREAS, opportunities for innovation and modernization
23 under the Medicaid program are limited and only available
24 through waivers of federal law awarded in an unpredictable
25 manner after lengthy bureaucratic negotiations, and

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26 WHEREAS, the current financing model of federal matching
 27 funds encourages states to shift state spending into the
 28 Medicaid program, which drives up costs and creates a perverse
 29 economic incentive such that states gain little benefit from
 30 efficiency and bear little risk for wasteful expenditures, and

31 WHEREAS, a reasonable, predictable funding mechanism that
 32 does not incentivize state spending increases will force states
 33 to make more rational, efficient spending choices, naturally
 34 reducing the rate of cost growth, and

35 WHEREAS, granting states complete flexibility with regard
 36 to eligibility, benefits, and state investment, while holding
 37 states to mutually agreeable quality outcomes, will help states
 38 transform the Medicaid program into an innovative consumer-
 39 driven, free-market program that integrates enrollees into the
 40 larger health care system, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

43
 44 (1) That the Congress of the United States is requested to
 45 establish Medicaid block grants in lieu of providing funding
 46 under Title XIX of the Social Security Act;

47 (2) That Medicaid block grants shall consist of risk-
 48 adjusted, income-adjusted, per capita amounts for each state
 49 based on current federal funding and annually indexed for
 50 inflation;

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51 (3) That Medicaid block grants shall allow states to
52 design new Medicaid programs not subject to the requirements of
53 Title XIX of the Social Security Act and regulations adopted
54 thereunder, but which shall be subject to quality monitoring by
55 the Federal Government based on mutually agreed-upon outcome
56 measures; and

57 (4) That Medicaid block grants shall be implemented in a
58 multiyear transition to eliminate funding disparities between
59 states.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
61 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
62 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
63 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
64 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.