

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 100

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 24, 2008

Sponsored by:

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Gordon

SYNOPSIS

Memorializes Congress and President to enact legislation to provide universal health insurance coverage.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/10/2009)

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- 1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** memorializing Congress and the President
2 of the United States to enact legislation to provide universal
3 health insurance coverage.
4
- 5 **WHEREAS**, Every person in New Jersey and the United States deserves
6 equal access to affordable quality health care; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Americans have identified the lack of affordable,
8 guaranteed health care for every citizen as one of the most critical
9 domestic problems; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Illness and medical bills contribute to 50% of all U.S.
11 bankruptcies, affecting more than two million Americans annually,
12 especially those without health insurance or those with inadequate
13 health insurance coverage; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Americans already pay more per capita than any other
15 nation for health care, almost twice the amount of other
16 industrialized nations, yet according to the World Health
17 Organization, this nation ranks 37th in health system performance;
18 and
19 **WHEREAS**, The U.S. could save over \$380 billion annually with an
20 efficient, single payer national health insurance program by
21 expanding the risk pool to the entire U.S. population, negotiating
22 prescription drug and medical supply purchases, reducing
23 administrative costs, and eliminating the need for administration,
24 marketing, and profits associated with private insurance; and
25 **WHEREAS**, These savings would fully offset the costs of insuring the
26 48 million Americans who are uninsured; and
27 **WHEREAS**, A national single payer plan restores control over medical
28 care to the patient and the patient's chosen medical professionals;
29 and
30 **WHEREAS**, There are an estimated 1.25 million New Jersey residents
31 who do not have health insurance coverage, of which over 240,000
32 are children; and
33 **WHEREAS**, The cost of providing health care to New Jersey's residents
34 has become a burden to New Jersey employers, as well as New
35 Jersey municipalities and taxpayers. According to the Institute of
36 Medicine, the uninsured in our State cost our State an estimated
37 \$2.9 billion annually. This far exceeds the cost to provide health
38 insurance to these uninsured New Jersey residents, demonstrating
39 the need to undertake a major overhaul and reform of the health
40 insurance system; and
41 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey hospitals spent almost \$1 billion to provide
42 charity care in FY 2007, with \$715 million reimbursed by State
43 taxpayers, expenses that would no longer be necessary under a
44 national health insurance program; and
45 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey could save over \$1.5 billion per
46 year in health benefits costs for current and retired State employees
47 under a national health insurance program proposed under federal

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1 legislation embodied in H.R. 676, the “United States National
2 Health Insurance Act”; and

3 **WHEREAS**, A national health insurance program would free New
4 Jersey doctors, hospitals and other medical care facilities from the
5 consistent burdens and expenses of paperwork created by having to
6 deal with multiple insurers with different rules; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Given New Jersey’s current fiscal crisis, in order to cover
8 every New Jersey resident with comprehensive health insurance,
9 the State would have to further cut aid to local governments and
10 other very critical State programs and services; and

11 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 676, sponsored by Congressman John Conyers and
12 93 co-sponsors, including Congressman Donald Payne of New
13 Jersey, would assure comprehensive coverage to include, but not be
14 limited to, hospital, physician, prescription drugs, vision, hearing,
15 dental, chiropractic, mental health, drug rehabilitation, and long-
16 term care services, for all New Jersey and U.S. residents, would
17 protect the doctor-patient relationship, would assure patients a
18 completely free choice of doctors, and allow physicians a free
19 choice of practice settings; and

20 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 676 has the endorsement of 34 out of 50 statewide
21 chapters of the AFL-CIO and 110 Central Labor Councils
22 nationwide, the New Jersey State Industrial Union Council, and 10
23 other Statewide or countywide labor organizations in New Jersey;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, This House believes that both controlling health care costs
26 and ensuring health care for all residents is of vital importance;
27 now, therefore,

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29 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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31 1. This House respectfully memorializes the United States
32 Congress and the President of the United States to enact H.R. 676,
33 pending in the 110th Congress, which provides universal health
34 insurance coverage for all individuals residing in the United States
35 and its territories.

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37 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
38 President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary of the Senate
39 thereof, shall be transmitted to the President and Vice President of
40 the United States, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United
41 States Senate, and to every member of Congress elected from this
42 State.

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45 STATEMENT

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47 This bill respectfully memorializes Congress and the President of
48 the United States to enact legislation embodied in H.R. 676, the

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1 “United States National Health Insurance Act,” which would
2 provide universal health insurance coverage for all individuals
3 residing in the United States and its territories. H.R. 676 would
4 create a single payer, not-for-profit health care system which would
5 improve access to care and eliminate covered benefit health care
6 costs for individuals.

7 Under H.R. 676, covered benefits would include, but are not
8 limited to, all medically necessary procedures, primary care and
9 prevention, inpatient care, outpatient care, emergency care,
10 prescription drugs, durable medical equipment, long-term care,
11 mental health services, the full scope of dental services other than
12 cosmetic dentistry, substance abuse and treatment services,
13 chiropractic services, basic vision care and correction other than
14 laser vision correction for cosmetic purposes, and hearing services
15 including coverage of hearing aids, without deductibles, co-
16 payments, co-insurance, or other cost sharing mechanisms.