

## ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 168

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 9, 1997

By Assemblywomen VANDERVALK and QUIGLEY

- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** memorializing the President and Congress of the  
2 United States to reject any federal budget proposal that includes a major  
3 reduction in Medicaid disproportionate share payments to hospitals.  
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- 5 **WHEREAS**, The United States Congress has crafted a bipartisan  
6 agreement to balance the federal budget over a five-year period by  
7 reducing Medicaid disproportionate share payments to hospitals by  
8 approximately \$25 billion; and
- 9 **WHEREAS**, The Governor of this State has written to the members of the  
10 United States Congress elected from the State to urge their reconsideration  
11 of this proposed reduction in disproportionate share payments in light of the  
12 number of New Jersey hospitals which would be adversely affected; and
- 13 **WHEREAS**, According to the New Jersey Hospital Association, 77 acute care  
14 hospitals and 11 public psychiatric and special hospitals in this State that  
15 serve low-income patients are eligible for these disproportionate share  
16 payments by virtue of the uncompensated care that they provide; and
- 17 **WHEREAS**, This State and its hospitals are renowned for their single-tiered  
18 system of providing health care services to the poor through a carefully  
19 constructed safety net program that recognizes the vital role of acute care  
20 provided by community-based and public psychiatric hospitals; and
- 21 **WHEREAS**, Reported data indicate that the number of hospital charity care  
22 patients in this State, which includes the indigent, the working poor and  
23 transient persons, has increased by nearly 30% since 1994, while annual  
24 State funding for hospital charity care has decreased by more than 40%;  
25 and
- 26 **WHEREAS**, The issue of State funding for hospital charity care will have to be  
27 addressed by the Governor and the Legislature prior to the scheduled  
28 expiration, on December 31, 1997, of the current statutory provisions for  
29 charity care funding, which rely upon 50% federal financial participation in  
30 the provision of Medicaid disproportionate share payments to hospitals;  
31 and
- 32 **WHEREAS**, The hospitals and citizens of this State, as well as the Governor  
33 and the Legislature, are committed to protecting the statutorily guaranteed  
34 right of every patient to have access to hospital care and the provision of  
35 appropriate health care services regardless of a patient's ability to pay or

1 source of payment; now, therefore,

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3 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

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5 1. This House memorializes the President and the Congress of the United  
6 States to reject any federal budget proposal that includes a major reduction  
7 in Medicaid disproportionate share payments to hospitals.

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9 2. A duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of  
10 the General Assembly, and attested by the Clerk of the General Assembly,  
11 shall be forwarded to the President of the United States, the United States  
12 Secretary of Health and Human Services, and each member of the United  
13 States Congress elected from the State of New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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18 This resolution memorializes the President and Congress of the United  
19 States to reject any federal budget proposal that includes a major reduction  
20 in Medicaid disproportionate share payments to hospitals.

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26 Memorializes President and Congress to reject any budget proposal that  
27 includes a major reduction in Medicaid disproportionate share payments to  
hospitals.