

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 96

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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INTRODUCED MAY 13, 1996

**By Assemblywomen GILL, BUONO and Assemblyman  
Impreveduto**

1   **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** memorializing the Governor and Blue Cross and  
2   Blue Shield of New Jersey regarding certain practices of that company.  
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4   **WHEREAS**, It is the responsibility of the Executive and Legislative branches of  
5   government of the State of New Jersey to develop and implement policies  
6   that are in the best interests of the citizens of the State of New Jersey; and  
7   **WHEREAS**, The retention and creation of good jobs should be a top priority  
8   for both the Administration and the Legislature, so as to ensure a high  
9   standard of living and a decent quality of life for every New Jersey citizen;  
10   and  
11   **WHEREAS**, The provision of affordable health care benefits to public  
12   employees is an appropriate direct contribution made by the State and its  
13   instrumentalities, as employers, to the quality of life of citizens of the State;  
14   and  
15   **WHEREAS**, In providing these benefits the State can reasonably be expected  
16   to seek the best coverage at the lowest price, but not at the expense of  
17   risking the quality of the health care provided or undermining efforts to  
18   create and retain decent jobs for all New Jersey residents; and  
19   **WHEREAS**, It is found that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey, in being  
20   awarded the contract from the State to provide health coverage to public  
21   employees, has received substantial benefits from the State of New Jersey  
22   but, in return for those benefits, has exported a major portion of the claims-  
23   processing work performed under this contract to the nations of Jamaica  
24   and Barbados, where workers performing that work earn wages of  
25   approximately \$1.50 per hour, a rate far below the minimum standards set  
26   by the State for workers in New Jersey; and  
27   **WHEREAS**, In so doing, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey has  
28   exemplified the poor corporate citizenship currently present among many  
29   members of the business community who have responded to New Jersey's  
30   efforts to produce a business-friendly climate by downsizing or moving jobs  
31   out of the State, thereby directly reducing the benefits received by the  
32   citizens of New Jersey, as well as exerting pressure on competing bidders  
33   for public contracts to also undermine the living standards of citizens of the  
34   State through the payment of substandard wages or relocation of jobs out

1 of the State; and

2   **WHEREAS**, is antithetical to the State's job creation and retention efforts to  
3       award a State contract to a company that sends a large portion of its jobs  
4       outside the State in search of low-wage labor; now, therefore,

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

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8       1. The Governor is hereby urged to rescind the State's contract with Blue  
9       Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey for health care coverage for public  
10      employees or renegotiate the contract to require the company to cease its  
11      practice of evading the State minimum pay standards by exporting portions of  
12      the work performed under its contract with the State.

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14       2. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey is urged to act as a  
15 responsible corporate citizen and cease its practice of evading the State  
16 minimum pay standards by exporting portions of the work performed under  
17 its contract with the State.

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19       3. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of  
20 the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk of the General Assembly,  
21 shall be transmitted to the Governor and to the Chief Executive Officer of Blue  
22 Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey.

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24        4. This Assembly resolution shall take effect immediately.

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## STATEMENT

29 This resolution is intended to express the will of the General Assembly that:

30       1. The Governor should rescind the State's contract with Blue Cross and  
31 Blue Shield of New Jersey or renegotiate the contract to require that company  
32 to cease its practice of evading the State minimum pay standards by exporting  
33 portions of the work performed under its contract with the State; and

34       2. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey should act as a responsible  
35 corporate citizen and cease its practice of evading the State minimum pay  
36 standards by exporting portions of the work performed under its contract with  
37 the State.

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3   Memorializes the Governor and Blue Cross and Blue Shield regarding certain  
4   practices of that company.