



HR0445 Enrolled

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION 445

2 On May 5, 2017, the United States House of Representatives
3 passed H.R. 1628, otherwise known as the American Health Care
4 Act (AHCA); and

5 WHEREAS, In March of 2017, the Congressional Budget Office
6 estimated that 24 million people would lose health insurance if
7 the AHCA were passed and implemented; of those 24 million
8 people, 14 million are currently covered by Medicaid, which the
9 AHCA would also slash by about \$880 billion over 10 years,
10 putting some of the poorest and most vulnerable citizens at
11 great risk; and

12 WHEREAS, As a result of passage of the AHCA, Illinois could
13 face a loss of \$40 billion in federal Medicaid funding over the
14 next 10 years, affecting over one million Illinois residents
15 who currently have coverage under the Affordable Care Act; and

16 WHEREAS, Currently, Illinois is ranked 50th in the nation
17 for capturing federal Medicaid dollars putting the State in an
18 extremely vulnerable position and unable to absorb more costs
19 from the federal government; and

20 WHEREAS, The AHCA also allows states to waive community
21 rating, which bans insurers from charging higher premiums to
22 those with pre-existing conditions and would result in much

1 higher premiums for people with pre-existing conditions; and

2 WHEREAS, As a result of waiving the ban on pre-existing
3 conditions, the cost of insurance will increase for people with
4 pre-existing conditions such as cancer, diabetes, arthritis,
5 autistic disorder, seizures, asthma, kidney disease, and
6 children with disabilities; and

7 WHEREAS, The AHCA also has a provision letting states waive
8 essential health benefits such as outpatient care, emergency
9 services, hospitalization, pregnancy, maternity, newborn care,
10 mental health and substance use disorder services, and
11 pediatric services; and

12 WHEREAS, Waiving of essential benefits puts mothers and
13 children at severe risk of losing coverage as plans on the
14 individual market can once again decide not to cover maternity
15 care as a result of the AHCA; and

16 WHEREAS, The law would also adopt a policy known as a "per
17 capita cap" for Medicaid that would replace the current funding
18 mechanism and rather than matching state spending; the AHCA
19 would give each state a set amount of money per person and
20 place specific caps for differing populations such as the
21 people with disabilities, the elderly, and other at-risk
22 populations; and

1 WHEREAS, As a result of placing a cap on spending, people
2 with disabilities who rely on home and community based services
3 through Medicaid, such as personal-attendant care, skilled
4 nursing, and specialized therapies could lose access to the
5 services they need in order to live independently and remain in
6 their homes; and

7 WHEREAS, The AHCA also places the elderly at risk; as
8 states continue to see rising populations as a result of the
9 baby boom generation, implementing a per capita cap on spending
10 may restrict states' abilities to keep up with the demand for
11 services resulting in premature institutionalization, lack of
12 services, and reduced quality of life for our seniors; and

13 WHEREAS, The AHCA poses a threat for persons with substance
14 abuse disorders; the opioid crisis in Illinois has placed a
15 heavier burden on the State's Medicaid program and has resulted
16 in an immense need for increased services; a per capita cap
17 will limit the State's ability to leverage additional monies in
18 times of crises or epidemic, further hampering the State's
19 ability to be responsive to the needs of its most vulnerable
20 populations during the most critical times; and

21 WHEREAS, The law allows states to impose work requirements
22 on those applying for Medicaid, which has not been proven to

1 increase employment among the poor and will meaningfully reduce
2 access to care for low income families; and

3 WHEREAS, On June 22, 2017, the United States Senate
4 introduced a proposed amendment for discussion to H.R. 1628,
5 known as the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017; and

6 WHEREAS, While the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017
7 contains changes to the original AHCA, the new proposed
8 amendment still contains significant cuts to both state
9 Medicaid programs as well as state healthcare exchanges and
10 continues to put some of the poorest and most vulnerable
11 citizens at great risk; and

12 WHEREAS, The legislation results in over 22 million people
13 losing their insurance coverage, and reduces spending on
14 healthcare services by over \$700 billion while also providing
15 over \$541 billion in tax breaks for extremely wealthy
16 individuals and corporations; and

17 WHEREAS, The Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017
18 continues to propose elimination of health insurance coverage
19 for the Medicaid expansion population in Illinois, thus
20 completely eliminating healthcare coverage for over 650,000
21 Illinoisans who currently only have insurance as a result of
22 the State's decision to expand Medicaid; and

1 WHEREAS, The act also continues to pursue "per capita caps"
2 for Medicaid severely placing billions of dollars in federal
3 funding in jeopardy for Illinois which may result in
4 elimination of services, reductions in services offered, rate
5 cuts for providers, or limiting coverage of high cost
6 enrollees; and

7 WHEREAS, The Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 reduces
8 the amount of subsidies to persons who purchase health
9 insurance on the healthcare exchange, and reduces the amount of
10 persons eligible to receive the subsidies for exchange plans
11 that provide less health insurance plans and contain higher
12 deductibles than current healthcare plans on the exchange; and

13 WHEREAS, The act continues its attack on healthcare for
14 women by reducing access to family planning services and
15 maternity care services, and allowing insurance companies to
16 charge higher premiums for women; and

17 WHEREAS, The Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 also
18 places seniors at an even higher risk of losing nursing home
19 care than the AHCA as a result of eliminations of presumptive
20 eligibility for Medicaid recipients to obtain benefits and
21 retroactive eligibility for Medicaid recipients to get paid for
22 services they have already received; and

1 WHEREAS, The Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 also
2 continues to allow states to waive essential health benefits as
3 provided under the Affordable Care Act, continually placing
4 many people at risk of losing the most basic healthcare
5 benefits such as maternity care, mental health care, substance
6 abuse and opioid treatment, and pharmacy benefits; and

7 WHEREAS, The true intention of both policies are revealed
8 in the provisions that create financial incentives for states
9 to increase Medicaid redeterminations in order to kick people
10 off of the Medicaid program, and financial incentives for
11 states to reduce the amount of healthcare services provided by
12 Medicaid; and

13 WHEREAS, The Governor has yet to officially take a position
14 on the American Health Care Act or the Better Care
15 Reconciliation Act of 2017, despite the fact that both stand to
16 negatively affect millions of Illinois residents and cause
17 major financial harm to the State's budget and the broader
18 system of healthcare across Illinois; and

19 WHEREAS, When the Governor has been asked to provide a
20 position on the American Health Care Act or the Better Care
21 Reconciliation Act of 2017, he has continually dodged the
22 question, refused to provide a direct answer, or attempted to

1 circumvent any responsibility for these proposed policies; and

2 WHEREAS, As the Governor has the supreme executive power in
3 the State under the Illinois Constitution, it is imperative
4 that he directly provide guidance to our Congressional
5 delegation and the people of Illinois regarding his position on
6 the American Healthcare Act and the Better Care Reconciliation
7 Act of 2017, both of which will have a disastrous effect on the
8 poorest and neediest persons in the State and will devastate
9 the critical social safety net they rely on; and

10 WHEREAS, Medicare is a federal health insurance program
11 that currently pays for a variety of health care expenses for
12 senior citizens aged 65 and older and people with certain other
13 qualifying conditions only; and

14 WHEREAS, Medicare currently insures over 55 million
15 Americans, and nearly everyone over age 65; in Illinois alone,
16 over 2 million people receive Medicare benefits; and

17 WHEREAS, There have been recent legislative efforts at the
18 federal level to expand Medicare for all persons in the United
19 States, not just those currently eligible which would provide
20 coverage for all medically necessary services, including
21 doctors' visits, hospital care, prevention programs, long-term
22 care, mental health, reproductive health care, dental, vision,

1 prescription drug, and medical supply costs; and

2 WHEREAS, Children (unmarried and under age 22) can only
3 receive Medicare if they are disabled or have a qualifying
4 condition and make up less than 7% of the current population of
5 people on Medicare; and

6 WHEREAS, Expanding the federal Medicare program to those
7 who need care the most can be a positive step to strengthen our
8 nation's commitment to improving the health and safety of all
9 Americans and reduce the risk of cuts posed by the AHCA and the
10 Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017, to those that are most
11 vulnerable; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
14 strongly urge the federal government, the United States
15 Congress, and the President of the United States, to oppose the
16 American Health Care Act, the Better Care Reconciliation Act of
17 2017, or any other legislative efforts that would reduce access
18 to healthcare for low-income and at-risk populations and to
19 expand the federal Medicare program for people most in need
20 especially children, women, and those with pre-existing
21 conditions, that are put at extreme risk as a result of passage
22 of either the American Health Care Act or the Better Care
23 Reconciliation Act of 2017; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we strongly urge the Governor of the state
2 of Illinois to be responsive to the needs of Illinois residents
3 and directly engage with the President of the United States,
4 and Republican members of the Illinois Congressional
5 delegation regarding the devastating consequences associated
6 with both the American Health Care Act and the Better Care
7 Reconciliation Act of 2017; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
9 delivered to the Governor of the State of Illinois, the
10 Illinois Congressional delegation, the United States Congress,
11 and the President of the United States.