



SR0254

LRB096 12609 RPM 25993 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Families, large and small businesses, healthcare providers, and State and local government in Illinois are struggling to access the quality, affordable healthcare that they need to promote healthy families and a healthy economy in their State and nationally; and

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WHEREAS, As a result of the national healthcare crisis, health insurance premiums in Illinois increased by 73% between the years 2000 and 2007, while median earnings increased by only 11%; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois median yearly wage in 2007 was \$27,330, while the average healthcare premium for a family was \$12,153; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois employers spend an average of \$9,071 per year on family coverage, paying 77% of the total cost of premiums for family coverage; and

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WHEREAS, An average of 700 Illinoisans lose their health insurance every day; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the time for a national

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1 solution to the American healthcare crisis that threatens the
2 economic and physical health of the people of Illinois and
3 people across the country is now; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we recognize the urgent need for a national
5 solution to the healthcare crisis that meets key criteria for
6 comprehensive health care reform set forth by President Obama
7 and Health Care for America Now, including the following:

8 (1) affordable coverage and care, with premiums and
9 out-of-pocket costs based on a family's ability to pay and
10 a choice of providers that meets our families' needs from
11 preventative care to care for serious illness; and

12 (2) a choice of health insurance plans, including the
13 right to keep one's current insurance, choose another
14 private plan, or join a public health insurance plan; and

15 (3) equity in healthcare access, treatment, research,
16 and resources to people and communities of color and the
17 strengthening of health services in low-income
18 communities; and

19 (4) a system in which government sets and enforces
20 rules on insurance company practices and charges,
21 requiring them to put our healthcare before their profits;
22 and

23 (5) coverage that is predictable and affordable for
24 working families, retirees, and small businesses and other
25 employers and that controls costs while improving quality,

1 with measures such as: lowering administrative expenses,
2 investing in preventive care, actively managing disease,
3 setting standards for performance, reducing medical
4 errors, and using the public's purchasing power to lower
5 drug and other prices; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we encourage local governments, families,
7 providers, and businesses across Illinois to work together in
8 2009 with the newly elected President Obama, the Illinois
9 Congressional delegation, and the leaders of the U.S. Congress
10 to guarantee quality, affordable healthcare for everyone in our
11 State and across the country; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 delivered to President Obama, the Illinois Congressional
14 delegation, and the leaders of the U.S. Congress.