



1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

2 (As Amended by Senate Amendment Nos. 1 & 2)

3 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Illinois  
4 recognizes that access to Medicare is necessary for people  
5 under age 65 who are eligible for Social Security Disability  
6 Insurance (SSDI); and

7 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Illinois  
8 recognizes that people under age 65 who qualify for SSDI and  
9 who lose their jobs are likely to lose job-related health  
10 insurance; and

11 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Illinois  
12 recognizes that most individuals who become disabled, before  
13 their disability, were working jobs and paying into Medicare;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Now, these people need coverage the most - when  
16 they have lost their health, their jobs, their income, and  
17 their health insurance; and

18 WHEREAS, Individuals who qualify for Medicare benefits  
19 under Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) must wait  
20 five months after the eligibility determination is made to  
21 start receiving SSDI benefits and 24 months after that date for

1 Medicare benefits to start; and

2 WHEREAS, Because of the two-year wait for Medicare  
3 benefits, many people with disabilities and their families are  
4 likely to face very high out-of-pocket expenditures for long  
5 term care or be forced to forego medical care; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
8 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the members of the Illinois  
9 delegation to the United States Congress to phase out  
10 Medicare's two-year waiting period so that persons under age 65  
11 are eligible for Medicare immediately after receiving their  
12 determination of disability; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be sent  
14 to each member of the Illinois Congressional delegation.