

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 412

Promoting a national dialog on long-term care financing reform.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2000

Mr. POMEROY (for himself, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. KUYKENDALL, Mr. ENGLISH, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. SKELTON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. FROST, Mr. RAMSTAD, and Mr. BASS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Promoting a national dialog on long-term care financing reform.

Whereas as the baby boom generation begins to retire, funding Social Security and medicare will put a strain on the financial resources of younger Americans;

Whereas medicaid was designed as a program for the poor, but in many States medicaid is being used to fund long-term care expenses for middle-income older Americans;

Whereas in the coming decade, people over age 65 will represent 20 percent or more of the population, and the proportion of the population composed of individuals over age 85, who are most likely to be in need of long-term care, may double or triple;

Whereas there are as many as 4 million people with disabilities or chronic illnesses, regardless of age, who need long-term care services and support in order to survive;

Whereas with nursing home care now costing an average of \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year, long-term care expenses can have a catastrophic effect on families, wiping out a lifetime of savings before a spouse, parent, or grandparent becomes eligible for medicaid;

Whereas costs for intermediate care facilities for people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities average nearly \$80,000 per year;

Whereas younger people with disabilities face the same long-term care cost issues as the elderly, yet they face certain additional long-term care problems because they are often younger and at a different stage of life, often trying to raise a family or earn a living while needing long-term support;

Whereas many people are unaware that most long-term care costs are not covered by medicare and that medicaid covers long-term care only after personal assets have been exhausted;

Whereas assistance for people with disabilities does not come from any one comprehensive program, but from many different programs, including medicaid, Social Security, and housing programs that contribute to helping people with disabilities lead independent lives;

Whereas widespread use of private long-term care insurance has the potential to protect many families from the catastrophic costs of long-term care services, while at the same time easing the burden on medicaid and freeing up additional resources for people who have been unable to obtain private insurance because of disability or some other limiting factor;

Whereas the Federal Government has endorsed the concept of private long-term care insurance by establishing Federal tax rules for tax-qualified policies in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996; and

Whereas the Federal Government has ensured the availability of quality long-term care insurance products and sales practices by adopting strict consumer protections in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3           (1) the Federal Government should—

4                   (A) take all appropriate steps to inform  
 5           the public about the financial risks posed by  
 6           rapidly increasing long-term care costs and  
 7           about the need for families to plan for their  
 8           long-term care needs;

9                   (B) take all appropriate steps to inform  
 10          the public that medicare does not cover most  
 11          long-term care costs and that medicaid covers

1 long-term care costs only when the beneficiary's  
2 personal assets are exhausted;

3 (C) take all appropriate steps to better in-  
4 tegrate programs for people with disabilities  
5 who need long-term care, including the contin-  
6 ued development of home- and community-  
7 based services;

8 (D) not only encourage employers to offer  
9 private long-term care insurance coverage to  
10 employees, but also encourage both working-  
11 aged people and older citizens to obtain long-  
12 term care insurance either through their em-  
13 ployers or on their own; and

14 (E) continue to support and encourage re-  
15 search into alleviating disabilities and chronic  
16 diseases that necessitate long-term care services  
17 and support;

18 (2) appropriate committees of Congress, to-  
19 gether with the Department of Health and Human  
20 Services and other appropriate executive branch  
21 agencies, should develop specific ideas for encour-  
22 aging Americans to plan for their own long-term  
23 care needs and better integrate long-term care pro-  
24 grams for people with disabilities;

1           (3) the congressional tax-writing committees,  
2           together with the Department of the Treasury,  
3           should determine whether the tax rules for long-term  
4           care insurance should be modified to ensure that the  
5           rules adequately facilitate the affordability of long-  
6           term care insurance; and

7           (4) the appropriate committees of Congress  
8           should consider the long-term care needs of older  
9           Americans, people with disabilities, and the chron-  
10          ically ill when considering medicaid, tax, health, in-  
11          surance, and housing policies, as well as the reform  
12          of Social Security and medicare.

○