

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 22

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to promoting coverage of individuals under long-term care insurance.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 23, 1999

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to promoting coverage of individuals under long-term care insurance.

1        *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*  
2        *concurring),*

3        **SECTION 1. PROMOTION OF COVERAGE OF INDIVIDUALS**

4                                **UNDER LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE.**

5                (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6                        (1) As the baby boom generation begins to re-  
7                tire, funding social security and Medicare will put a  
8                strain on the financial resources of younger Ameri-  
9                cans.

1           (2) Medicaid was designed as a program for the  
2 poor, but in many States Medicaid is being used for  
3 middle income elderly people to fund long-term care  
4 expenses.

5           (3) In the coming decade, people over age 65  
6 will represent 20 percent or more of the population,  
7 and the proportion of the population composed of in-  
8 dividuals who are over age 85, and most likely to  
9 need long-term care, may double or triple.

10          (4) With nursing home care now costing an av-  
11 erage of \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year, long-term  
12 care expenses can have a catastrophic effect on fami-  
13 lies, wiping out a lifetime of savings before a spouse,  
14 parent, or grandparent becomes eligible for Med-  
15 icaid.

16          (5) Many people are unaware that most long-  
17 term care costs are not covered by Medicare and  
18 that Medicaid covers long-term care only after the  
19 person's assets have been exhausted.

20          (6) Widespread use of private long-term care  
21 insurance has the potential to protect families from  
22 the catastrophic costs of long-term care services  
23 while, at the same time, easing the burden on Med-  
24 icaid as the baby boom generation ages.

1           (7) The Federal Government has endorsed the  
2           concept of private long-term care insurance by estab-  
3           lishing Federal tax rules for tax-qualified policies in  
4           the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability  
5           Act of 1996.

6           (8) The Federal Government has ensured the  
7           availability of quality long-term care insurance prod-  
8           ucts and sales practices by adopting strict consumer  
9           protections in the Health Insurance Portability and  
10          Accountability Act of 1996.

11          (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
12          gress that—

13               (1) the Federal Government should take all ap-  
14               propriate steps to inform the public about the finan-  
15               cial risks posed by rapidly increasing long-term care  
16               costs and about the need for families to plan for  
17               their long-term care needs;

18               (2) the Federal Government should take all ap-  
19               propriate steps to inform the public that Medicare  
20               does not cover most long-term care costs and that  
21               Medicaid covers long-term care costs only when the  
22               beneficiary has exhausted his or her assets;

23               (3) the Federal Government should take all ap-  
24               propriate steps not only to encourage employers to  
25               offer private long-term care insurance coverage to

1 employees, but also to encourage both working-aged  
2 people and older citizens to obtain long-term care in-  
3 surance either through their employers or on their  
4 own;

5 (4) appropriate committees of Congress, to-  
6 gether with the Department of Health and Human  
7 Services and other appropriate executive branch  
8 agencies, should develop specific ideas for encour-  
9 aging Americans to plan for their own long-term  
10 care needs; and

11 (5) the congressional tax-writing committees,  
12 together with the Department of the Treasury,  
13 should determine whether modification of the tax  
14 rules for long-term care insurance is necessary to  
15 ensure that the rules adequately facilitate the afford-  
16 ability of long-term care insurance.

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