

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 94

Expressing the sense of Congress that public awareness and education about the importance of health care coverage is of the utmost priority and that a National Importance of Health Care Coverage Month should be established to promote that awareness and education.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 24, 2002

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that public awareness and education about the importance of health care coverage is of the utmost priority and that a National Importance of Health Care Coverage Month should be established to promote that awareness and education.

Whereas census estimates indicate that some 42,000,000 people in the United States are without health insurance coverage, many of whom are among the most vulnerable and can be financially devastated by serious illness, disease, or accident;

Whereas studies have shown that people with health insurance are healthier than those who are uninsured and receive care through emergency rooms or safety net health care services, because the insured are entitled to, and re-

ceive, more preventive care, follow-up care, and care for chronic conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure;

Whereas over 17,300,000 of the uninsured are employed but are not offered health insurance through their employers;

Whereas such employers are small business owners who are often unaware of the benefits of offering health insurance, including that such benefits are tax deductible, reduce employee turnover, and reduce employee sick days;

Whereas over 16,000,000 people in the United States, more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the uninsured, are in families where at least 1 member of the family has been offered employer based health care coverage but has declined coverage;

Whereas many individuals are eligible for public assistance programs such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP, and the medicaid program, but are not currently enrolled due primarily to lack of outreach, education, and accessible enrollment processes;

Whereas studies have shown that many individuals and small businesses are unaware of the various options they have for obtaining affordable health care coverage;

Whereas surveys have shown that many individuals who cite expense as the reason for not purchasing insurance find insurance affordable once they are informed of the true cost of various options; and

Whereas education about health care coverage helps uninsured individuals and employers understand the critical value of health insurance as a preventive measure and the ways to keep their health insurance premiums manageable once they have health care coverage: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) a National Importance of Health Care Cov-
4 erage Month be established to—

5 (A) promote a multifaceted educational ef-
6 fort about the importance of health care cov-
7 erage;

8 (B) increase awareness of the many avail-
9 able health care coverage options; and

10 (C) inform those eligible for public insur-
11 ance programs on ways to access those pro-
12 grams; and

13 (2) the President issue a proclamation calling
14 on the Federal Government, States, localities, citi-
15 zens, and businesses of the United States to conduct
16 appropriate programs, fairs, ceremonies, and activi-
17 ties to promote this educational effort.

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