

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 64

Commending efforts in Texas to reduce the number of uninsured individuals and encouraging other States to adopt similar solutions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 14, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Commending efforts in Texas to reduce the number of uninsured individuals and encouraging other States to adopt similar solutions.

Whereas all Americans should have access to affordable, high-quality health care services;

Whereas more than 46 million Americans, or 16 percent of the United States population, do not have health insurance, and nearly 5.5 million people in Texas, or 25 percent of the Texas population, are without health insurance, which ranks Texas as the State with the largest number of uninsured individuals;

Whereas the uninsured usually do not have a primary care physician and rely on emergency room care for medical treatment, and costs for primary and preventive care are much less than costs for emergency room care;

Whereas the future of health care in the United States will need innovative solutions to increase access to affordable health care for the growing population;

Whereas health care decisions are best made between a patient and his or her doctor and not by a government bureaucrat, and competition among providers of health care services and an abundance of choices for patients are vital components to the long-term stability of the health care system;

Whereas the Texas legislature passed S.B. 10 in 2003, which allowed the formation of health group cooperatives and coalitions;

Whereas the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce collaborated with Covenant Health Systems and UMC Health System to develop the Lubbock Chamber Employer Health Plan (the “Plan”);

Whereas the Plan is available to all Chamber members to purchase health insurance and provides small- and medium-sized businesses and their employees with the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of membership in a large group health insurance plan;

Whereas the Plan initially enrolled 275 groups and 3,156 individuals in May 2006 and now provides health insurance to more than 1,000 groups and more than 10,000 individuals; and

Whereas of those covered by the Plan, approximately 20 percent were previously uninsured: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends the State of Texas for passing

3 S.B. 10;

1 (2) commends the Lubbock Chamber of Com-
2 merce for actively working to reduce the number of
3 uninsured individuals in Texas and developing a suc-
4 cessful health care plan that has benefitted more
5 than 10,000 individuals in the Lubbock area;

6 (3) encourages other chambers of commerce or
7 similar groups in Texas to develop a health group
8 cooperative to provide access to affordable health
9 care to all Texans; and

10 (4) encourages other States to study the Texas
11 model and adopt similar, empowering health care so-
12 lutions.

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