

Senator JOHANN has made an important step toward change.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 31—PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE, AND A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. REID submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 31

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, June 25, 2009 through Sunday, June 28, 2009, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, July 6, 2009, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, June 25, 2009, through Sunday, June 28, 2009, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, or such other time on that day as may be specified in the motion to adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and the House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 32—A BILL EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON HEALTH CARE REFORM LEGISLATION

Mr. MENENDEZ submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 32

Whereas consumers may continue to confront a variety of problems with a reformed health care system;

Whereas those problems may range from difficulties in choosing an appropriate health plan, problems with calculation of premiums and cost-sharing, the possibility of a denial of benefits, and issues with enrollment and access to providers;

Whereas the Institute of Medicine estimates that as many as 30 percent of people in the United States suffer from health treatment illiteracy;

Whereas the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion of the Department of Health and Human Services reports that only 12 percent of the population can use a table to calculate the share of health insurance costs for an individual;

Whereas a study by RAND Corporation found that increasing the ease of access to

information regarding insurance products and simplifying the application process would increase purchase rates of insurance products as much as modest subsidies would;

Whereas the reports from the Institute of Medicine, the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, and RAND Corporation prove there is a need for a fundamental improvement in the manner in which consumers learn about insurance choices;

Whereas many consumers lack avenues or mechanisms to present grievances both to the managers of health plans and to external reviewers and fail to receive timely decisions with respect to those grievances;

Whereas consumers often need expert guidance to pursue claims for denied health care benefits and other coverage disputes;

Whereas some States have documented a number of cases of improperly rescinded health insurance policies, inappropriate billing for out-of-network services, and fraudulent and deceptive marketing of health plans;

Whereas the Federal Government lacks oversight mechanisms to prevent health care coverage problems from recurring in other States;

Whereas the appropriate resolution of a health coverage complaint may involve multiple Federal and State agencies;

Whereas health plans sometimes make mid-year changes to provider networks, benefit offerings, or other elements of the plan important to enrollees;

Whereas people need assistance enforcing consumer rights in the health care system; and

Whereas Federal laws have created successful models of consumer assistance with health dispute resolution, such as the Long Term Care Ombudsman program that assists nursing home residents in every State and the Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program that assists those eligible for Medicare: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that any health care reform legislation should include, with respect to health plans—

(1) support for consumer education and assistance with enrollment, particularly for vulnerable populations, at both the Federal and State levels;

(2) assistance for people asserting consumer rights;

(3) a strengthened system of consumer protections, including—

(A) an appeal mechanism within a health plan, and an appeal mechanism with an external entity independent of the health plan, which could address a variety of coverage problems;

(B) coverage for emergency care without prior authorization;

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1365. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2918, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

SA 1366. Mr. MCCAIN proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1365 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) to the bill H.R. 2918, supra.

SA 1367. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2918, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1368. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2918, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1365. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2918, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
SENATE**

EXPENSE ALLOWANCES

For expense allowances of the Vice President, \$20,000; the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, \$40,000; Majority Leader of the Senate, \$40,000; Minority Leader of the Senate, \$40,000; Majority Whip of the Senate, \$10,000; Minority Whip of the Senate, \$10,000; Chairmen of the Majority and Minority Conference Committees, \$5,000 for each Chairman; and Chairmen of the Majority and Minority Policy Committees, \$5,000 for each Chairman; in all, \$180,000.

REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCES FOR THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS

For representation allowances of the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, \$15,000 for each such Leader; in all, \$30,000.

SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

For compensation of officers, employees, and others as authorized by law, including agency contributions, \$178,982,000, which shall be paid from this appropriation without regard to the following limitations:

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

For the Office of the Vice President, \$2,517,000.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

For the Office of the President Pro Tempore, \$752,000.

OFFICES OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS

For Offices of the Majority and Minority Leaders, \$5,212,000.

OFFICES OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY WHIPS

For Offices of the Majority and Minority Whips, \$3,288,000.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

For salaries of the Committee on Appropriations, \$15,844,000.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

For the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority, at rates of compensation to be fixed by the Chairman of each such committee, \$1,726,000 for each such committee; in all, \$3,452,000.

OFFICES OF THE SECRETARIES OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE MAJORITY AND THE CONFERENCE OF THE MINORITY

For Offices of the Secretaries of the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority, \$850,000.

POLICY COMMITTEES

For salaries of the Majority Policy Committee and the Minority Policy Committee, \$1,763,000 for each such committee; in all, \$3,526,000.

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

For Office of the Chaplain, \$415,000.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Office of the Secretary, \$25,790,000.

OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER

For Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, \$70,000,000.