

Whereas, this growth will never be controlled unless the State of Texas has autonomous management of the program, free from federal mandates regarding individual entitlement, eligibility groups, benefits, payment rates, and financing structures to allow most citizens of the State of Texas to benefit from the Medicaid and welfare programs; and

Whereas, the State of Texas will be able to design and develop innovative, efficient, and productive medical assistance programs that will meet the needs of the residents within the State of Texas' budget capacity; and

Whereas, in the State of Texas, there exists the possibility to improve patient outcomes and cost-effectiveness with a state-wide implementation of consumer-directed care under the state medical assistance program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 78th Legislative of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to enact appropriate legislation to pass federal funds on to states via block grants to be used for public welfare and Medicaid purposes; and be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered into the Congressional Record of the United States of America.

POM-280. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to the medical savings account program; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 90

Whereas, Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs) offer an innovative alternative to high-premium insurance policies by combining tax-free savings accounts and high-deductible catastrophic health insurance plans; and

Whereas, individuals choosing to use these accounts can pay for routine and minor medical services with funds set aside in a tax-free savings account, while major health care costs are covered by their high-deductible health insurance plans; and

Whereas, tax-free MSAs encourage individuals to make wise and economical decisions about their health care because managing their own accounts often makes them more aware of the true costs of health care; MSAs also offer participants greater access to medical services and the freedom to choose their own health care providers; and

Whereas, a survey of MSA plan participants shows that employers offering MSAs to their employees have been able to reduce health insurance expenses by up to 40 percent; in contrast, employers overall have recently experienced an average 16 percent increase in health insurance premiums, with some small employers confronting increases of 40 to 50 percent; and

Whereas, the federal MSA pilot program, which was designed for small employer groups and the self-employed, carries restrictions that may discourage participation in the program and create confusion among potential applicants, employers, and insurance providers; and

Whereas, the federal MSA pilot program limits annual deductibles for participating employees to not less than \$1,700 or more than \$2,500 for an individual and not less than \$3,500 or more than \$6,150 for a family; annual out-of-pocket expenses under the

plan cannot exceed \$3,350 for individual coverage and \$6,150 for family coverage; and annual limits for account contributions are 65 percent of the deductible for an individual account and 75 percent of the deductible for a family account; and

Whereas, according to 1996 data, about 85 percent of Americans incurred medical expenses, with an average per-person expenditure of about \$2,400, an amount well within the range limits of the MSA annual contribution for an individual account; even more significant is the fact that about half of those persons who incurred medical expenses had expenses of less than \$560; and

Whereas, any unspent MSA funds for a given year may be rolled over to the following year; after age 65, unspent funds can be rolled over to an Individual Retirement Account or withdrawn without penalty for any use and taxed as ordinary income; and

Whereas, expanding the availability of MSAs to other employers, increasing the account contribution limits, and lowering the limits on annual deductibles for participating employees would encourage greater participation among consumers, employers, and insurance providers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to broaden the scope and availability of the medical savings account program, remove its restrictions, and allow state governments to design such programs for their employees; and be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2004" (Rept. No. 108-148).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 1618. A bill to reauthorize Federal Aviation Administration Programs for the period beginning on October 1, 2003, and ending on March 31, 2004, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 1619. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to ensure that children with disabilities who are homeless or are wards of the State have access to special education services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 1620. A bill to condition the implementation of assessment procedures in connection

with the Head Start National Reporting System on Child Outcomes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWNBACK:

S. 1621. A bill to provide for consumer, educational institution, and library awareness about digital rights management technologies included in the digital media products they purchase, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. GRAHAM of Florida (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. AKAKA, and Mrs. MURRAY)):

S. 1622. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to exempt certain members of the Armed Forces from the requirement to pay subsistence charges while hospitalized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1623. A bill for relief of Elvira Arellano; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 226. A resolution to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of *Josue Orta Rivera v. Congress of the United States of America*, et al; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BAYH (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. Res. 227. A resolution expressing the profound sorrow of the Senate for the death of Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon and extending thoughts, prayers, and condolences to his family, friends and loved ones; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. Con. Res. 69. A concurrent resolution providing that any agreement relating to trade and investment that is negotiated by the executive branch with other countries must comply with certain minimum standards; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 242

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 242, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the same capital gains treatment for art and collectibles as for other investment property and to provide that a deduction equal to fair market value shall be allowed for charitable contributions of literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions created by the donor.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 income tax increase on Social Security benefits.

S. 736

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S.