

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 241

To ensure all residents equal access to quality health care services if a managed competition health plan is enacted.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 1993

Mr. STARK introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

JOINT RESOLUTION

To ensure all residents equal access to quality health care services if a managed competition health plan is enacted.

Whereas over thirty-seven million Americans have no health insurance and therefore inadequate access to necessary health care and tens of millions more residents have inadequate health insurance;

Whereas one solution to the health care crisis in the United States of America currently being considered would encourage competition between large groups of providers (Accountable Health Plans or AHP's) to provide health care to large groups of buyers (Health Insurance Purchasing Cooperatives or HIPC's);

Whereas this proposed plan calls for the creation of a national health board which would define a standard package of health benefits and HIPC's would negotiate prices with competing AHP's which would compete on the basis of price, and quality of services;

Whereas tens of millions of Americans will be unable to afford more than the lowest bidding AHP in a given geographic area and will, de facto, be locked into that plan (for example, there will be no real freedom of choice for these individuals);

Whereas the lowest bidding AHP in a given HIPC is less likely to include adequate numbers of higher quality providers (such as tertiary hospital trauma centers, rehabilitation, and a full range of mental health facilities);

Whereas the proposed plan would allow each State significant flexibility to organize and manage the HIPC's and such flexibility may result in quality differences between the State;

Whereas the health industry has traditionally avoided the Medicaid population, the poor, the unemployed, and the chronically ill, assurances should be provided to guarantee true equal access to quality health care to high-risk populations;

Whereas one of the members of the Alliance of Managed Competition has submitted testimony to the House Committee on the District of Columbia stating that it has many providers who do not want poor people in their waiting rooms and therefore would not participate in a managed care operation that included large numbers of Medicaid clients;

Whereas concern has been expressed by representatives of the disabled, chronically ill, and high-risk populations that they will continue to have unequal access to quality health care under managed competition proposals;

Whereas approximately 25 percent of the population of this country still lives in rural areas which have small hospitals or none at all and few, if any, physicians, and concern has been expressed that rural residents will not have universal access to quality health care;

Whereas most residents will feel secure and confident about health care reform legislation when they have equal access to quality health care regardless of income, place of residence, status of health, or employment;

Whereas Members of Congress should not force millions of their constituents into health care systems they themselves are unwilling to join; and

Whereas Members of Congress and their families who participate in the lowest bidding AHP in their congressional district will provide an immediate warning of quality problems, deficiencies, and underservice, and thus will ensure that everyone, regardless of income, place of residence, status of health, or employment will have access to quality health care: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That all Members of Congress and their families enroll
- 4 in the lowest bidding AHP in their home of record.

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