

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 144

To express the sense of the Senate that, by the end of the 104th Congress, the Senate should pass health care legislation to provide all Americans with coverage that is at least as good as the Senate provides for itself.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 29 (legislative day, JUNE 19), 1995

Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Senate that, by the end of the 104th Congress, the Senate should pass health care legislation to provide all Americans with coverage that is at least as good as the Senate provides for itself.

Whereas the American people want and deserve the same high quality health care as that received by Members of Congress;

Whereas 41,000,000 Americans are uninsured, more than 11,000,000 of whom are children;

Whereas children have accounted for the largest proportion of the increase in the number of uninsured individuals in recent years;

Whereas the percentage of working people who receive health insurance from their employer has dipped to its lowest point since the early 1980's;

Whereas thousands of the Nation's smallest businesses continue to find the cost of health insurance out of reach;

Whereas many employers who do provide coverage for their employees have been forced to reduce benefits and increase employee cost-sharing requirements in order to continue to provide insurance;

Whereas medical inflation continues to grow at double the general inflation rate;

Whereas choice of health plan and provider is becoming increasingly limited for the vast majority of Americans;

Whereas many American families continue to be subject to discriminatory insurance practices and denied coverage due to preexisting health conditions;

Whereas the proposed \$450,000,000,000 in medicare and medicaid cuts may lead to increasing numbers of uninsured, higher uncompensated health care costs, and severe cost shifting to the private sector; and

Whereas the status quo is unacceptable and the American public continues to believe that major reform of our country's health care system should be a top priority for Congress: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that, by
- 2 the end of the 104th Congress, the Senate should pass
- 3 health care legislation to provide all Americans with cov-

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2 itself.

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