

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 209

To express the sense of the Senate regarding prenatal care for women and children.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 13, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. ENSIGN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance

RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Senate regarding prenatal care for women and children.

Whereas unborn children benefit from quality prenatal health care;

Whereas the levels of infant mortality, premature delivery, and low birth weight are exceedingly high in the United States as compared with other developed countries;

Whereas low birth weight and premature delivery are causally associated with developmental disabilities among children;

Whereas proper prenatal care can prevent avoidable birth defects;

Whereas new medical advances, together with early diagnosis, can treat children with a wide range of disorders, including spina bifida, HIV/AIDS, fetal distress, and anemia;

Whereas fetal surgery is now able to correct many life-threatening congenital disorders;

Whereas pregnant women benefit from quality health care, including physician care, hospital care, and prescription medications;

Whereas prenatal care can prevent medical and surgical complications that a mother may encounter during pregnancy and delivery;

Whereas prenatal care can identify and treat a mother's pre-existing medical conditions, which may be impacted by pregnancy;

Whereas an estimated 10,900,000 women of child-bearing age (18 through 44) do not have health insurance;

Whereas the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), created under title XXI of the Social Security Act, expands health coverage to uninsured children whose families earn too much for medicaid but too little to afford private coverage; and

Whereas, on January 31, 2002, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, proposed a regulation to allow States to include coverage for children from conception to age 19, which would allow low-income pregnant mothers to receive prenatal and delivery care: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commends Secretary of Health and Human

3 Services, Tommy Thompson, for moving to imme-

1 diately make SCHIP resources available to States to
2 care for unborn children and pregnant mothers; and

3 (2) commends Secretary Thompson for recog-
4 nizing pregnant mothers and unborn children as de-
5 serving of concern about their health and well-being.

○