

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

HCR 1019

4
5 By: Representatives T. Baker, Blount, Rainey

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8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**
9 TO ENCOURAGE A NATIONAL SOLUTION TO HEALTHCARE
10 REFORM FOR AMERICA.

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12 **Subtitle**
13 TO ENCOURAGE A NATIONAL SOLUTION TO
14 HEALTHCARE REFORM FOR AMERICA.

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17 WHEREAS, families, large and small businesses, healthcare providers,
18 and state and local government in Arkansas are struggling to access the
19 quality, affordable healthcare that they need to promote healthy families and
20 a healthy economy; and

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22 WHEREAS, as a result of the national healthcare crisis, health
23 insurance premiums in Arkansas increased by 65.8% between 2000 and 2007 while
24 median earnings increased by only 11.6%; and

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26 WHEREAS, although the economy is struggling, families are still facing
27 skyrocketing annual healthcare costs that have increased in Arkansas from
28 \$6,355 to \$10,534 between 2000 and 2007 for an average family; and

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30 WHEREAS, Arkansas employers face an increasing cost burden for health
31 insurance premiums as an employer's portion of annual premiums increased from
32 \$4,582 to \$7,145 between 2000 and 2007; and

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34 WHEREAS, over 483,465 people, including over 62,650 children have no
35 healthcare coverage at all in Arkansas, making it impossible for these
36 individuals to get access to basic preventative care that could reduce



1 healthcare costs and prevent long-term healthcare problems,

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3 NOW THEREFORE,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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7 That the General Assembly recognizes the urgent need for a national
8 solution to the health care crisis that meets key criteria for comprehensive
9 health care reform set forth by President Obama and Health Care for America
10 Now including the following:

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12 (1) Affordable coverage and care, with premiums and out-of-
13 pocket costs based on a family's ability to pay and a choice of providers
14 that meets families' needs from preventative care to care for serious
15 illness;

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17 (2) A choice of health insurance plans, including the right to
18 keep current insurance, choose another private plan, or join a public health
19 insurance plan;

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21 (3) Equity in health care access, treatment, research, and
22 resources to people and communities of color;

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24 (4) Strengthening health services in low-income communities;

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26 (5) Establishing a health care system in which government sets
27 and enforces rules governing insurance company practices and charges,
28 requiring insurance companies to put health care before profits; and

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30 (6) Coverage that is predictable and affordable for working
31 families, retirees, and small businesses and other employers and that
32 controls costs while improving quality, with measures such as: lowering
33 administrative expenses, investing in preventative care, actively managing
34 disease, setting standards for performance, reducing medical errors, and
35 using the public's purchasing power to lower drug and other prices.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly encourages that in 2009,
2 state government, local governments, families, providers, and businesses
3 across Arkansas work together with the newly elected President Obama, the
4 Arkansas congressional delegation, and the leaders of the new United States
5 Congress to guarantee quality, affordable health care for everyone in our
6 state and across the country.

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate
9 copy shall be provided to President Obama and each member of the Arkansas
10 congressional delegation by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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