

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

SCR 9

4
5 By: Senator Elliott
6 By: Representative L. Smith

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9 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

10 RECOGNIZING THE URGENT NEED FOR HEALTH CARE FOR
11 AMERICA NOW.

12
13 **Subtitle**

14 RECOGNIZING THE URGENT NEED FOR HEALTH
15 CARE FOR AMERICA NOW.

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

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23 WHEREAS, as a result of the national health care crisis, health
24 insurance premiums in Arkansas increased by sixty-five and eight-tenths
25 percent (65.8%) between 2000 and 2007, while median earnings increased by
26 only eleven and six-tenths percent (11.6%); and

27
28 WHEREAS, even while the economy is failing, families are still facing
29 skyrocketing annual health care costs that have increased for an average
30 family in Arkansas from six thousand three hundred fifty-five dollars
31 (\$6,355) to ten thousand five hundred thirty-four dollars (\$10,534) between
32 2000 and 2007; and

33
34 WHEREAS, Arkansas employers also face an increasing cost burden for
35 health insurance premiums as the employer's portion of annual premiums
36 increased from four thousand five hundred eighty-two dollars (\$4,582) to



1 seven thousand one hundred forty-five dollars (\$7,145) between 2000 and 2007;
2 and

3

4 WHEREAS, over four hundred eight-three thousand four hundred sixty-five
5 (483,465) people, including over sixty-two thousand six hundred fifty
6 (62,650) children in Arkansas actually lack any health care coverage at all,
7 making it impossible for these individuals to get access to basic
8 preventative care that could reduce health care costs and health care
9 problems in the long run,

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11 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING
13 THEREIN:

14

15 That the time for a national solution to the American health care
16 crisis that threatens the economic and physical health of the people of
17 Arkansas and people across the country is now.

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Arkansas recognizes the urgent need for a
20 national solution to the health care crisis that meets key criteria for
21 comprehensive health care reform set forth by President Obama and Health Care
22 for America Now including the following:

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24 Affordable coverage and care, with premiums and out-of-pocket costs
25 based on a family's ability to pay and a choice of providers that meet our
26 families' needs from preventative care to care for serious illness;

27

28 A choice of health insurance plans, including without limitation the
29 right to keep one's current insurance, choose another private plan, or to
30 join a public health insurance plan;

31

32 Equity in health care access, treatment, research, and resources to
33 people and communities of color and strengthening health services in low-
34 income communities;

35

36 A system in which government sets and enforces rules on insurance

1 company practices and charges, requiring them to put our health care before
2 their profits; and

3
4 Coverage that is predictable and affordable for working families,
5 retirees, small businesses, and other employers and that controls costs while
6 improving quality, with measures such as: lowering administrative expenses,
7 investing in preventive care, actively managing disease, setting standards
8 for performance, reducing medical errors, and using the public's purchasing
9 power to lower drug and other prices.

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in 2009, local governments, families,
12 providers, and businesses across Arkansas will work together with the newly
13 elected President Obama, the Arkansas congressional delegation, and the
14 leaders of the United States Congress to guarantee quality, affordable health
15 care for everyone in our state and across the country.