

TO EXPRESS THE INTENT OF THE ARKANSAS SENATE TO EXPLORE OPTIONS TO FUND A MEDICAID MATCH TO EXPAND MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY TO COVER PREGNANT WOMEN WITH INCOMES UP TO ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE POVERTY LEVEL.

WHEREAS, future generations of this great State depend first upon the health of expectant mothers; and

WHEREAS, early and regular prenatal care is a major factor associated with better perinatal outcome; and

WHEREAS, the greatest preventive impact on the health of future generations can be made through the provision of adequate prenatal care; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine calculated that for every \$1.00 spent on prenatal care \$3.38 could be saved in the short term cost for care of low birth weight infants; and

WHEREAS, prenatal care is cost effective and should be a basic health service; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation now permits states to expand Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women and their infants to cover those families who do not have incomes greater than 100% of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas Medicaid with a one-time funding match from the Indigent Health Care Trust Fund will expand Medicaid eligibility to cover those pregnant women and infants up to 75% of the federal poverty level effective April 1987,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

That it explore options to fund a Medicaid match to expand Medicaid eligibility to cover pregnant women with incomes up to 100% of the poverty level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the current funding for health care access and delivery for poor pregnant women and their infants be protected so that future generations can benefit from the improved educational standards and

serve as productive Arkansans.