

By: Delisi

H.C.R. No. 57

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Federal funding for the SCHIP program, enacted in
2 1997 by the United States Congress, is provided through
3 state-specific, annual allotments; and

4 WHEREAS, Several states have been unable to use all of their
5 allotments, while other states spent all available funds; and

6 WHEREAS, The Children First SCHIP Improvement Act of 2003
7 would, if enacted, allow states to continue to use \$1.2 billion in
8 funds through FY 2004 that were originally allocated for FY
9 1998-99; and

10 WHEREAS, The proposal would also extend for one additional
11 year the availability of \$1.5 billion in SCHIP funds from FY 2000
12 and 2001 allotments, thereby allowing 50 percent of each year's
13 unspent money to be retained by states that have not used their
14 entire allotment; and

15 WHEREAS, Absent a statutory change, states with excess funds
16 from prior years would lose millions in funding and put under served
17 children's health in jeopardy; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of Texas operates under a biennial budget
19 process, presenting unique barriers to the full utilization of
20 SCHIP allotments; and

21 WHEREAS, The State of Texas, specifically, stands to lose
22 \$285 million in unspent SCHIP funds; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to enact

1 the Children First SCHIP Improvement Act of 2003; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
3 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to enact
4 legislation further extending the availability of year 2000 and
5 year 2001 SCHIP allotments until year 2005; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
7 copies of this resolutions to the president of the United States,
8 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
9 senate of the United States Congress, and all the members of the
10 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
11 resolution be officially entered into the Congressional Record of
12 the United States of America.