

By: Delisi

H.C.R. No. 247

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, health care costs are rising dramatically each year;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, many state and local governments, including the
4 State of Texas, provide health insurance programs for both their
5 employees and retirees; and

6 WHEREAS, these programs allow employees and retirees access
7 to health care at a reasonable cost; and

8 WHEREAS, some of the programs allow employees to pay for
9 their health insurance premiums and other medical expenses on a
10 pre-tax basis through cafeteria plans or flexible spending
11 accounts, as authorized by the federal Internal Revenue Code; and

12 WHEREAS, current federal law fails to provide the same
13 mechanism for retirees to pay for their health insurance premiums
14 and other medical expenses on a pre-tax basis; and

15 WHEREAS, retirees on a fixed budget are disproportionately
16 affected by rising health care costs; and

17 WHEREAS, this disparity of tax treatment between employees
18 and retirees violates simple notions of fairness; and

19 WHEREAS, H.R. 1776, the Pension Preservation and Savings
20 Expansion Act of 2003, was introduced in the United States Congress
21 on April 11; and

22 WHEREAS, the Pension Preservation and Savings Expansion Act
23 of 2003 contains a provision modifying the federal Internal Revenue
24 Code so that retirees may pay for health insurance and other medical

1 expenses on a pre-tax basis. Now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
3 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to
4 modify the federal Internal Revenue Code so that retirees may pay
5 for health insurance premiums and other medical expenses on a
6 pre-tax basis, and, be it further

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