

By: Vo

H.C.R. No. 108

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, In 2005, 24.5 percent of Texans were uninsured, 1.4  
2 million of them children; of those uninsured children, only 326,473  
3 who were eligible for the State Children's Health Insurance Program  
4 (CHIP) were enrolled, a decrease of 36.4 percent from the 512,986  
5 children enrolled in 2003; and

6 WHEREAS, This decline in Texas' CHIP enrollment represents  
7 the most extreme decline nationwide, and as of February 2007,  
8 enrollment continues to fall; and

9 WHEREAS, As a joint federal-state program, financing CHIP  
10 depends largely on the funds allocated to the state by the United  
11 States Congress, with a generous match of \$2.65 for every dollar  
12 contributed by Texas for federal fiscal year 2005; under federal  
13 law, however, a state must spend its entire annual CHIP block  
14 allocation within three years, or those unspent amounts are  
15 returned to the federal government and redistributed to other  
16 states that have spent their allocations and need additional  
17 federal matching funds to cover their costs; and

18 WHEREAS, Regrettably, Texas returned a total of \$893.4  
19 million in federal funds between 2000 and 2006, with another \$20  
20 million scheduled to be returned on March 31, 2007; in so doing,  
21 Texas will likely face a special challenge in the upcoming federal  
22 debate to convince Congress that it should grant the state enough  
23 funds to cover all uninsured children who qualify for CHIP, but who  
24 are not enrolled; and

1           WHEREAS, Against the backdrop of a federal deficit, Congress  
2 is scheduled to debate the reauthorization of the CHIP block grant  
3 in 2007; the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services estimates  
4 that without the appropriation of an additional \$9.3 billion over  
5 five years above the original 1997 allocations, states will not  
6 have adequate CHIP funds to maintain current caseloads, benefits,  
7 and eligibility standards, requiring enrollment nationwide to be  
8 cut by one-third by 2012; and

9           WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of uninsured Texas children  
10 are at risk of remaining uninsured if Congress provides funding at a  
11 level to support only current enrollment, leaving Texas without the  
12 necessary funds to restore enrollment levels and accommodate other  
13 essential uses of federal funds; now, therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
15 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to  
16 approve the appropriation of sufficient funds for Texas' block  
17 grant allocation for the State Children's Health Insurance Program  
18 to enable the state to increase enrollment levels; and, be it  
19 further

20           RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
21 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, the  
22 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the  
23 senate of the United States Congress, and all members of the Texas  
24 delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be  
25 officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the  
26 Congress of the United States of America.