

By: Coleman

H.C.R. No. 134

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Based on three-year average uninsured rates for  
2 2003-2005 from the U.S. Census Bureau, the State of Texas had the  
3 highest percentage of uninsured at 24.6 percent; during this same  
4 period, as a result of policies implemented in 2003, the number of  
5 children enrolled in the State Children's Health Insurance Program  
6 (SCHIP) decreased by 36.6 percent from 513,742 to 325,479; and

7 WHEREAS, This decline in Texas' SCHIP enrollment represents  
8 the most extreme decline nationwide, and as of February 2007,  
9 enrollment continues to be one-third below pre-2003 levels; and

10 WHEREAS, As a joint federal-state program, financing SCHIP  
11 depends largely on the funds allocated to the state by the United  
12 States Congress, with a generous match of \$2.64 for every dollar  
13 contributed by Texas for federal fiscal year 2007; under federal  
14 law, however, a state must spend its entire annual SCHIP block  
15 allocation within three years, or those unspent amounts are  
16 returned to the federal government and redistributed to other  
17 states that have spent their allocations and need additional  
18 federal matching funds to cover their costs; and

19 WHEREAS, Regrettably, Texas returned a total of \$893.4  
20 million in federal funds between 2000 and 2006, with another \$20  
21 million scheduled to be returned on March 31, 2007; as a result,  
22 Texas will likely face a special challenge in the upcoming federal  
23 debate to convince Congress that it should grant the state enough  
24 funds to cover all uninsured children who qualify for SCHIP but who

1 are not enrolled; and

2 WHEREAS, Against the backdrop of a federal deficit, Congress  
3 is scheduled to debate the reauthorization of the SCHIP block grant  
4 in 2007; the Congressional Budget Office estimates that states will  
5 face total federal funding shortfalls of \$13.4 billion over the  
6 next five years if SCHIP is reauthorized and annual SCHIP funding is  
7 set at the current baseline funding level of \$5 billion per year;  
8 without the additional \$13.4 billion, the states will not have  
9 adequate SCHIP funds to maintain current caseloads, benefits, and  
10 eligibility standards, requiring enrollment nationwide to be cut by  
11 35 percent by 2012; and

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

17 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
18 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to  
19 reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program and  
20 approve the appropriation of \$60 billion for the next five years to  
21 enable Texas and other states to increase enrollment and insure all  
22 eligible children; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
24 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, the  
25 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the  
26 senate of the United States Congress, and all members of the Texas  
27 delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be

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1 officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the  
2 Congress of the United States of America.