

By: Walle

H.R. No. 1247

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In March of 2010, the United States Congress enacted
2 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to address the
3 nation's urgent health care crisis; and

4 WHEREAS, Before passage of the Affordable Care Act, the \$2.5
5 trillion health care industry accounted for about 17 percent of
6 U.S. gross domestic product but left tens of millions of Americans
7 uninsured; many who were excluded from insurance coverage
8 eventually consumed health care services for which others paid,
9 since our law and culture do not permit hospitals to turn away
10 people in need of emergency treatment; each year, some \$73 billion
11 in costs for uninsured patients was shifted to others, raising the
12 average family's annual insurance premium by about \$1,000 and
13 increasing the burden on taxpayers by at least \$30 billion; and

14 WHEREAS, After extensive study, Congress passed the
15 Affordable Care Act, and on March 23, 2010, President Obama signed
16 it into law; the ACA builds on the existing nationwide system of
17 employer-based health insurance and expands Medicaid eligibility
18 to those with incomes below 1-1/3 times the federal poverty level,
19 among other measures; the act is expected to extend care to more
20 than 30 million previously uninsured Americans; and

21 WHEREAS, Opponents almost immediately began working to undo
22 the law in Congress or the courts; in 2011, the Supreme Court agreed
23 to hear a challenge to the Affordable Care Act, centering on the
24 question of whether Congress has the constitutional power to

1 require people to purchase health insurance or face a penalty
2 through the so-called "individual mandate"; the court's landmark
3 decision of June 28, 2012, upheld the law, ruling that the financial
4 penalty might reasonably be characterized as a tax and that such a
5 tax is permitted under the constitution; and

6 WHEREAS, The Supreme Court's ruling on the Patient Protection
7 and Affordable Care Act cleared the way for the United States to
8 proceed with implementing the law, and millions of Americans now
9 look forward to gaining health care coverage; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
11 Legislature hereby recognize that the Patient Protection and
12 Affordable Care Act was enacted by the United States Congress and
13 signed by the president of the United States, and it is now the law
14 of the land, as per the historic Supreme Court decision of June 28,
15 2012.