

By: Reynolds

H.C.R. No. 17

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)  
2 is a landmark achievement that has enhanced the lives of millions of  
3 Americans by increasing both access to and quality of health care;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Since the law's passage in 2010, more than 21  
6 million people, including 1.7 million Texans, have gained health  
7 insurance coverage, dropping the nation's uninsured rate to a  
8 record low; while our state continues to lead the country with an  
9 uninsured rate 1.75 times higher than the national average, and  
10 although more than 4.3 million Texans still lack coverage, we would  
11 face an even greater problem without this important program; and

12           WHEREAS, The ACA has benefited Texas families by improving  
13 the affordability of medical care; the law has required health  
14 insurance plans to include preventive services at no extra cost to  
15 consumers and extended mental health and substance use disorder  
16 benefits and federal parity protections to an estimated 62 million  
17 Americans; it has also helped close the Medicare coverage gap for  
18 prescription drugs, saving the program's enrollees in Texas nearly  
19 \$1 billion; and

20           WHEREAS, The law has prohibited a number of discriminatory  
21 practices in the health insurance industry that once precluded  
22 countless people from receiving coverage; in addition to banning  
23 annual and lifetime limits in policies, the law has barred insurers  
24 from denying coverage based on preexisting conditions and from

1 rescinding policies for any reason other than nonpayment or fraud;  
2 moreover, insurers are no longer allowed to charge women higher  
3 premiums than men for the same coverage; and

4 WHEREAS, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has  
5 revolutionized health care for the better, as more people now enjoy  
6 the security of health insurance than at any other time in our  
7 nation's history; though it is necessary to continue building on  
8 the law's success with improvements, it is paramount that we uphold  
9 this historic legislation for the millions who currently depend on  
10 it and for the generations to come; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas,  
12 1st Called Session, hereby urge the United States Congress to  
13 preserve the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and, be it  
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
16 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
17 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of  
18 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
19 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
20 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
21 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.