

By: Reynolds

H.C.R. No. 54

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 hereby urge the United States Congress to preserve the Patient
13 Protection and Affordable Care Act; and, be it further

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