

By: Perry

S.C.R. No. 24

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Millions of medically vulnerable Texans need health  
3 care but have neither insurance nor personal funds to cover the  
4 cost; and

5 WHEREAS, Texas Medicaid was created to help the medically  
6 vulnerable, but the huge cost of the federal health care  
7 bureaucracy reduces the ability of the program to provide in a  
8 timely manner the services and goods mandated by the federal  
9 government; and

10 WHEREAS, Funding deficiencies also cause Texas Medicaid to  
11 fail the provider community, including individuals and  
12 institutions, by offering less than adequate recompense for the  
13 services and goods they supply; Medicaid reimbursement rates are  
14 below the cost of doing business for most providers, and as a  
15 result, more than 30 percent of Texas physicians cannot afford to  
16 take care of Medicaid enrollees; and

17 WHEREAS, In recent years, the federally mandated expansion of  
18 Medicaid benefits has caused reimbursement rates to plummet  
19 further, even as the number of Medicaid-covered patients has risen;  
20 consequently, wait times for appointments have lengthened  
21 dramatically; a study conducted by Illinois Medicaid found that  
22 delays in care for Medicaid patients had resulted in unnecessary  
23 deaths; and

24 WHEREAS, Medicaid is the largest single-cost item in the

1 Texas state budget, accounting for 30 percent of all spending; it  
2 consumes financial resources that are sorely needed to support  
3 other programs, including foster care, education, job training,  
4 border security, and infrastructure; and

5       WHEREAS, The original Medicaid legislation of 1965 clearly  
6 specified that Medicaid programs would be jointly funded by state  
7 and federal governments and administered by the states; this  
8 framework is in keeping with the intent of the founding fathers in  
9 that it allows states to use their superior knowledge of the needs  
10 of their residents and how best to expend the resources necessary to  
11 regulate, administer, and control their own programs; states are  
12 better positioned than the federal government to innovate and  
13 compete, and they can take advantage of the laboratory of ideas to  
14 provide superior alternatives to existing delivery systems;  
15 nevertheless, today, Washington, D.C., bureaucrats at the Centers  
16 for Medicare and Medicaid Services have decision-making power over  
17 factors that drive costs in Texas, among them eligibility  
18 standards, verification processes, compliance oversight, and  
19 benefit packages; although Texas has received federal approval of a  
20 Medicaid 1115 Waiver, which grants some additional flexibility,  
21 this does not address the root cause of problems created by the lack  
22 of state control; and

23       WHEREAS, When it expanded Medicaid eligibility, the federal  
24 government promised greater access to health care, but medically  
25 vulnerable residents of Texas have experienced cruel  
26 disillusionment; without real control over the administration of  
27 its own Medicaid program, Texas cannot address the problems that

1 arise in the delivery of required services with limited funds, and  
2 the state cannot properly balance its priorities and discharge its  
3 responsibilities to its citizens; now, therefore, be it

4         RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas  
5 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to uphold the  
6 original intent of the 1965 Medicaid law to maintain a jointly  
7 funded, state-administered program by continuing joint funding of  
8 Texas Medicaid under the current Federal Medical Assistance  
9 Percentages program while transferring the administration,  
10 control, and compliance oversight of all aspects and components of  
11 the Texas Medicaid program from the Centers for Medicare and  
12 Medicaid Services in Washington to the State of Texas; and, be it  
13 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.