

By: Perry

S.C.R. No. 24

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, Medicaid is the largest single cost item in the
24 Texas state budget, accounting for 30 percent of all spending; it

1 consumes financial resources that are sorely needed to support
2 other programs, including foster care, education, job training,
3 border security, and infrastructure; and

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

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

1 the state cannot properly balance its priorities and discharge its
2 responsibilities to its citizens; now, therefore, be it

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

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