

By: Reynolds

H.C.R. No. 80

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The United States remains the only developed country  
2 without universal health care, and while it spends more on health  
3 care than other advanced nations, it ranks lowest in life  
4 expectancy and performs poorly on a variety of health outcomes; and

5           WHEREAS, By 2017, the U.S. was spending about \$3.24 trillion  
6 annually on personal health care, representing 17.2 percent of  
7 Gross Domestic Product, despite the fact that 9 percent of U.S.  
8 residents have no health insurance and 26 percent are underinsured  
9 and cannot afford the prohibitively high costs of the care they  
10 need; on average, other high-income countries spend about 40  
11 percent less per person than the U.S. while achieving better health  
12 outcomes; and

13           WHEREAS, The U.S. has the world's most bureaucratic health  
14 care system; more than 31 percent of every health care dollar is  
15 spent on paperwork, overhead, CEO salaries, corporate profits, and  
16 the like, and because we have more than 1,500 different insurance  
17 plans, our insurance system is extremely complex, fragmented,  
18 dysfunctional, and expensive; hospitals and other health care  
19 providers waste countless hours dealing with insurance claims  
20 departments, a chore that costs the average physician almost  
21 \$100,000 per year, according to a recent study; meanwhile, business  
22 owners struggle to afford health insurance for their employees,  
23 workers pay higher premiums, co-pays, and deductibles, and 80  
24 million people lack adequate health insurance, leaving some

1 seriously ill patients and their families to beg for help on social  
2 media fund-raising platforms; and

3       WHEREAS, Single-payer health care, often referred to in the  
4 U.S. as Medicare for All, is designed to significantly improve  
5 health care outcomes while establishing effective cost controls  
6 throughout the health care system; all residents would receive  
7 quality health care as a basic right, from the providers of their  
8 choice, through an insurance system that covers everyone in a  
9 manner comparable to the existing Medicare program for residents 65  
10 years and older; coverage would include all medically necessary  
11 services, including doctor visits, hospitalization, mental health,  
12 long-term care, prescription drugs, dental, vision, and more,  
13 without the need for co-pays or deductibles; and

14       WHEREAS, Nearly 30 independent economic analyses have found  
15 that a single-payer system would lower costs; in 2018, a  
16 comprehensive report by the Political Economy Research Institute at  
17 the University of Massachusetts Amherst calculated that Medicare  
18 for All would reduce total health care spending in the U.S. by  
19 nearly 19 percent, relative to the existing system; the most  
20 significant cost savings would occur in the areas of administration  
21 and pharmaceutical pricing, as well as through the establishment of  
22 uniform Medicare rates for hospitals, physicians, and clinics;  
23 additional savings, at least in the initial years, would accrue by  
24 reining in the high levels of waste and fraud that currently prevail  
25 in service provision; and

26       WHEREAS, Absent systemic change, the Centers for Medicare and  
27 Medicaid Services projects that U.S. health consumption

1 expenditures will soar to 18.8 percent of GDP by 2026; the  
2 implementation of Medicare for All is projected to reduce the  
3 percentage from 17.2 to 15.8 percent, even after accounting for the  
4 rising cost pressures due to an aging population; moreover, broader  
5 macroeconomic benefits would include improved health outcomes that  
6 raise productivity, promote greater income equality, and increase  
7 job creation, especially by lowering operating costs for small and  
8 medium-sized businesses; and

9 WHEREAS, Our current health care system is failing millions  
10 of Americans, but Medicare for All can deliver vastly less  
11 expensive care to everyone in a far more fair and efficient manner;  
12 now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas  
14 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to enact  
15 legislation establishing a single-payer health care system; and, be  
16 it further

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