

House Concurrent Resolution No. 29

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5167L.011

2 **Whereas**, Senate Substitute for Senate Bill No. 539 enacted in the First Regular
3 Session of the Ninety-third General Assembly made sweeping changes to Missouri's Medicaid
4 program, resulting in the elimination of state health benefits for thousands of people living below
5 the federal poverty level; and

6 **Whereas**, under the new legislation, the Medicaid Reform Commission was
7 established to make recommendations to the General Assembly on reforming, redesigning, and
8 restructuring the current Medicaid program which is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2008; and

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10 **Whereas**, according to estimates by the Department of Social Services, the
11 Medicaid cuts contained in SB 539 will end health insurance coverage for approximately
12 125,000 Missourians, including:

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14 (1) 61,000 low-income parents with incomes between 30% and 75% of the federal
15 poverty level, or between \$4,800 and \$12,100 per year for a family of three, after certain
16 deductions;

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18 (2) 4,600 senior citizens and people with permanent disabilities with incomes from
19 \$6,900 to \$9,600 per year for an individual;

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21 (3) 9,500 low-income workers who have disabilities;

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23 (4) 3,000 working people with temporary disabilities;

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25 (5) 1,150 people who recently left welfare for work;

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27 (6) 13,600 children and adults who would lose coverage because of stricter application
28 requirements and increased paperwork; and

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30 (7) 24,000 children who would lose Medicaid MC+ coverage because their families are
31 unable to pay increased premiums; and

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33 **Whereas**, in addition, SB 539 cut the monthly subsidies to families that have
34 adopted children in Missouri's foster care system by imposing a means test for parents, requires
35 co-payments for most Medicaid services, and allows providers to refuse service to people with
36 poor payment histories; and

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38 **Whereas**, under the modified Medicaid program, the state will no longer guarantee
39 payment for dental and optical care, podiatry, hearing aids, artificial limbs, wheelchairs, hospice
40 care, and home oxygen equipment. The funding of such services will be left to the year-to-year
41 appropriations process and the availability of funds; and

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43 **Whereas**, while children, pregnant women, and the blind are exempt from the cuts,
44 moderate income families are required to pay premiums to enroll children in the Children's
45 Health Insurance Program, a program designed for families that do not qualify for Medicaid but
46 cannot afford private insurance; and

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48 **Whereas**, the changes to the eligibility requirements for personal care services may
49 force many elderly and disabled persons into long-term care facilities in violation of federal law;
50 and

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52 **Whereas**, legislation has been introduced this session to track various groups of
53 persons who have lost state benefits as a result of the changes in the state Medicaid program after
54 the passage of SB 539. Such measures are an attempt to determine the real impact of the
55 sweeping changes made and loss of the safety net for thousands of Missourians; and

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57 **Whereas**, as the elected representatives of the citizens of the State of Missouri, it
58 is our obligation not only to enact legislation, but to follow-up after the passage of legislation to
59 evaluate and determine whether changes are necessary based on the real impact the changes in
60 the law have had on the lives of Missourians:

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62 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
63 Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
64 concurring therein, hereby support the passage of legislation to monitor the affect that the
65 eligibility cuts made in last year's legislation has had on the quality of life for thousands of
66 Missourians who have lost their eligibility for basic care under the state Medicaid program and
67 to assess the real impact in the everyday lives of those Missourians who are now uninsured and
68 underinsured; and

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70 **Be it further resolved** that the members of the General Assembly are
71 encouraged to support legislation which, in a fiscally responsible manner, restores eligibility to
72 those Missouri residents most adversely affected by the cuts made in the state Medicaid program.