

House Concurrent Resolution No. 23

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0263L.021

1 **Whereas**, every person in Missouri and in the United States deserves access to
2 affordable, quality health care; and
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4 **Whereas**, there is a growing crisis in health care in the United States of America,
5 manifested in rising health care costs, increased premiums, out-of-pocket spending, decreased
6 international business competitiveness, and massive layoffs; and
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8 **Whereas**, approximately 635,000 to 707,000 Missourians lacked health insurance
9 in 2005; and
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11 **Whereas**, those insured now often experience unacceptable medical debt and
12 sometimes life-threatening delays in obtaining health care; and
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14 **Whereas**, one-half of all personal bankruptcies are due to illnesses or medical bills;
15 and
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17 **Whereas**, the termination of Medicaid in 2008 and the rising cost of insuring state
18 employees and teachers can best be met not by limiting benefits, but by expanding them under
19 a national, publicly-funded health insurance program; and
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21 **Whereas**, the complex bureaucracy arising from our system of fragmented, for-
22 profit, multi-payer system of health care financing consumes approximately 30% of United
23 States health care spending; and
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25 **Whereas**, independent research by Kenneth E. Thorpe, PhD. found in 2003 that
26 if Missouri adopted a single-payer, universal health program with benefits more generous than
27 75% of all private insurance benefits in the state, Missouri health care spending would decline
28 by a savings of \$1.3 billion in administrative costs alone under a streamlined administrative
29 structure; and
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31 **Whereas**, United States Representative John Conyers has introduced H.R. 676, the
32 United States National Health Insurance Act, in the United States House of Representatives, and
33 this act would provide a universal, comprehensive, single-payer system of high quality national
34 health insurance:
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36 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
37 Representatives of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
38 concurring therein, hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to enact the United States
39 National Health Insurance Act sponsored by Representative Conyers; and
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41 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
42 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for President
43 George W. Bush and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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