

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1993**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 429**

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Sponsors: Representatives Blue; Alexander, Alphin, Arnold, Baddour, Barbee, Barnhill, Black, Bowen, Bowie, Bowman, Braswell, D. Brown, Brubaker, Church, Cole, Colton, Crawford, Culp, Cummings, Cunningham, Decker, DeVane, Diamont, Dickson, Dockham, Edwards, Esposito, Fitch, Gamble, Gardner, Gottovi, Green, Griffin, Hackney, Hensley, Hightower, Hill, Holt, Howard, Judy Hunt, H. Hunter, Ives, James, Jeffus, Jenkins, Joye, Justus, Kuczmariski, Lee, Luebke, Lutz, Mavretic, McAllister, McCrary, McLaughlin, McLawhorn, Mercer, Michaux, B. Miller, G. Miller, Miner, Mitchell, Moore, Morgan, Nesbitt, Nye, Oldham, C. Preston, J. Preston, Ramsey, Redwine, Richardson, Robinson, Rogers, Smith, Spears, Stamey, Stewart, Sutton, R. Thompson, Wainwright, Weatherly, Wilkins, Wilmoth, P. Wilson, Wood, and Wright.

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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March 15, 1993

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA  
2 CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO INTERCEDE WITH THE EXECUTIVE  
3 BRANCH WHEN NECESSARY AND TO PROPOSE TO CONGRESS CERTAIN  
4 AMENDMENTS TO THOSE PARTS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT THAT  
5 AFFECT THE MEDICAID PROGRAM, THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT  
6 INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974, THE FEDERAL TAX CODE, AND OTHER  
7 RELEVANT ACTS TO PERMIT THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA TO  
8 IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM  
9 PROGRAM.

10 Whereas, in 1993 more than 2,000,000 North Carolinians will be either  
11 uninsured or underinsured, putting them "at risk" of being unable to afford needed health  
12 services; and

1           Whereas, in 1992 North Carolina's citizens spent at least \$3.7 billion on care  
2 of the medically indigent and the financing mechanism for this huge burden is grossly  
3 inequitable; and

4           Whereas, North Carolina employers who provide health care coverage for  
5 their employees, the employees themselves, and other insured or self-paying patients are  
6 paying on average a 27% overcharge to compensate for patients who cannot pay or who  
7 underpay, and this cost shift is projected to double by 1996; and

8           Whereas, the North Carolina General Assembly wants to expand access to  
9 health care to all North Carolinians and contain the costs of North Carolina's health care  
10 programs; and

11           Whereas, North Carolina wants to implement common forms and  
12 administrative procedures and establish a uniform benefit standard on which all North  
13 Carolinians can depend and that would apply both to commercial and self-funded plans;  
14 and

15           Whereas, the 1993 North Carolina General Assembly will adopt a plan for  
16 health care reform for the State of North Carolina; and

17           Whereas, the implementation of the North Carolina State plan will depend  
18 upon removal of certain federal legislative and executive branch constraints;

19 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

20           Section 1. The North Carolina General Assembly urges the North Carolina  
21 delegation to the 103rd United States Congress to help the North Carolina General  
22 Assembly implement health care reform by:

- 23           (1) Proposing amendments to the Social Security Act that would permit  
24 the State of North Carolina to eliminate categorical restrictions,  
25 increase income limits, and share costs in amount, scope, and duration  
26 of services and comparability requirements in the Medicaid program;
- 27           (2) Proposing amendments to the Social Security Act that would authorize  
28 the State of North Carolina to replace the mandatory and optional  
29 service requirements in the Medicaid program with a uniform standard  
30 benefit established by the General Assembly of North Carolina to  
31 which North Carolinians would have access;
- 32           (3) Proposing amendments to the Employee Retirement Income Security  
33 Act of 1974 to allow the State of North Carolina to regulate self-  
34 funded health insurance plans; and
- 35           (4) Proposing amendments to any other act or regulation that constrains or  
36 impedes implementation of North Carolina's health care reform.

37           Sec. 2. The North Carolina General Assembly also urges the North Carolina  
38 delegation to the 103rd United States Congress to help the State to intercede with the  
39 President of the United States, the Department of Health and Human Services, and any  
40 other federal agency that presents regulatory barriers to implementation of a North  
41 Carolina legislative plan for health care reform.

42           Sec. 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit certified copies of this resolution  
43 upon ratification to the members of the North Carolina Congressional delegation, the

- 1 President of the United States, and the Secretary of the United States Department of
- 2 Health and Human Services.
- 3           Sec. 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.