

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2005**

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**HOUSE RESOLUTION 1792**

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Sponsors: Representatives Holliman, McMahan (Primary Sponsors); L. Allen, Barnhart, Brubaker, Carney, Daughtridge, Dollar, Farmer-Butterfield, Fisher, Folwell, Frye, Gillespie, Glazier, Goforth, Harrison, Hilton, Insko, Justice, Kiser, LaRoque, McComas, Pate, Ross, Sauls, Steen, Underhill, and Wiley.

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

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July 26, 2005

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION  
2 PERTAINING TO SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH PLANS.

3       Whereas, for years, the main concern for small business owners has been to  
4 provide affordable health insurance for their employees; and

5       Whereas, of the 27 million working people who are uninsured, 63% of them  
6 are either self-employed or work for a small business that employs less than 100 people;  
7 and

8       Whereas, lack of competition and soaring administrative costs contribute to  
9 the inability of small businesses to provide health insurance for their employees; and

10       Whereas, uniform federal regulation of small business health plans would  
11 benefit small business owners, making health insurance more affordable and providing  
12 small business owners with greater health insurance options; and

13       Whereas, pending legislation before the United States Congress, the Small  
14 Business Health Fairness Act of 2005 (H.R. 525/S. 406), would provide for the  
15 establishment and governance of association health plans (also known as small business  
16 health plans), which are group health plans whose sponsors are trade, industry,  
17 professional, chamber of commerce, or similar business associations and which meet  
18 certain Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) certification requirements;  
19 and

20       Whereas, the legislation would allow health insurance issuers to offer  
21 coverage of the same policy type offered in connection with a particular association  
22 health plan to eligible employers, regardless of whether the employers are members of  
23 the particular association and regardless of State law; and

24       Whereas, small business plans would level the playing field and give  
25 participating small employers the same buying power as Fortune 500 companies and  
26 unions; and

1           Whereas, the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005 has bipartisan  
2 support; Now, therefore,

3 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

4           **SECTION 1.** The North Carolina House of Representatives urges Congress  
5 to enact the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005 or similar legislation.

6           **SECTION 2.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this  
7 resolution to each member of North Carolina's congressional delegation.

8           **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.