

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

H

**Simple
Resolution
Adopted**

**HOUSE RESOLUTION 1792
Adopted 8/23/05**

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.

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

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

1 Whereas, small business plans would level the playing field and give
2 participating small employers the same buying power as Fortune 500 companies and
3 unions; and

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

6 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

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

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

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