

1 next 10 years, affecting over one million Illinois residents
2 who currently have coverage under the Affordable Care Act; and

3 WHEREAS, Currently, Illinois is ranked 50th in the nation
4 for capturing federal Medicaid dollars putting the State in an
5 extremely vulnerable position and unable to absorb more costs
6 from the federal government; and

7 WHEREAS, The AHCA also allows states to waive community
8 rating, which bans insurers from charging higher premiums to
9 those with pre-existing conditions and would result in much
10 higher premiums for people with pre-existing conditions; and

11 WHEREAS, As a result of waiving the ban on pre-existing
12 conditions, the cost of insurance will increase for people with
13 pre-existing conditions such as cancer, diabetes, arthritis,
14 autistic disorder, seizures, asthma, kidney disease, and
15 children with disabilities; and

16 WHEREAS, The AHCA also has a provision letting states waive
17 essential health benefits such as outpatient care, emergency
18 services, hospitalization, pregnancy, maternity, newborn care,
19 mental health and substance use disorder services, and
20 pediatric services; and

21 WHEREAS, Waiving of essential benefits puts mothers and

1 children at severe risk of losing coverage as plans on the
2 individual market can once again decide not to cover maternity
3 care as a result of the AHCA; and

4 WHEREAS, The law would also adopt a policy known as a "per
5 capita cap" for Medicaid that would replace the current funding
6 mechanism and rather than matching state spending; the AHCA
7 would give each state a set amount of money per person and
8 place specific caps for differing populations such as the
9 people with disabilities, the elderly, and other at-risk
10 populations; and

11 WHEREAS, As a result of placing a cap on spending, people
12 with disabilities who rely on home and community based services
13 through Medicaid, such as personal-attendant care, skilled
14 nursing, and specialized therapies could lose access to the
15 services they need in order to live independently and remain in
16 their homes; and

17 WHEREAS, The AHCA also places the elderly at risk; as
18 states continue to see rising populations as a result of the
19 baby boom generation, implementing a per capita cap on spending
20 may restrict states' abilities to keep up with the demand for
21 services resulting in premature institutionalization, lack of
22 services, and reduced quality of life for our seniors; and

1 WHEREAS, The AHCA poses a threat for persons with substance
2 abuse disorders; the opioid crisis in Illinois has placed a
3 heavier burden on the State's Medicaid program and has resulted
4 in an immense need for increased services; a per capita cap
5 will limit the State's ability to leverage additional monies in
6 times of crises or epidemic, further hampering the State's
7 ability to be responsive to the needs of its most vulnerable
8 populations during the most critical times; and

9 WHEREAS, The law allows states to impose work requirements
10 on those applying for Medicaid, which has not been proven to
11 increase employment among the poor and will meaningfully reduce
12 access to care for low income families; and

13 WHEREAS, On June 22, 2017, the United States Senate
14 introduced a proposed amendment for discussion to H.R. 1628,
15 known as the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017; and

16 WHEREAS, While the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017
17 contains changes to the original AHCA, the new proposed
18 amendment still contains significant cuts to both state
19 Medicaid programs as well as state healthcare exchanges and
20 continues to put some of the poorest and most vulnerable
21 citizens at great risk; and

22 WHEREAS, The legislation results in over 22 million people

1 losing their insurance coverage, and reduces spending on
2 healthcare services by over \$700 billion while also providing
3 over \$541 billion in tax breaks for extremely wealthy
4 individuals and corporations; and

5 WHEREAS, The Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017
6 continues to propose elimination of health insurance coverage
7 for the Medicaid expansion population in Illinois, thus
8 completely eliminating healthcare coverage for over 650,000
9 Illinoisans who currently only have insurance as a result of
10 the State's decision to expand Medicaid; and

11 WHEREAS, The act also continues to pursue "per capita caps"
12 for Medicaid severely placing billions of dollars in federal
13 funding in jeopardy for Illinois which may result in
14 elimination of services, reductions in services offered, rate
15 cuts for providers, or limiting coverage of high cost
16 enrollees; and

17 WHEREAS, The Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 reduces
18 the amount of subsidies to persons who purchase health
19 insurance on the healthcare exchange, and reduces the amount of
20 persons eligible to receive the subsidies for exchange plans
21 that provide less health insurance plans and contain higher
22 deductibles than current healthcare plans on the exchange; and

1 WHEREAS, The act continues its attack on healthcare for
2 women by reducing access to family planning services and
3 maternity care services, and allowing insurance companies to
4 charge higher premiums for women; and

5 WHEREAS, The Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 also
6 places seniors at an even higher risk of losing nursing home
7 care than the AHCA as a result of eliminations of presumptive
8 eligibility for Medicaid recipients to obtain benefits and
9 retroactive eligibility for Medicaid recipients to get paid for
10 services they have already received; and

11 WHEREAS, The Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 also
12 continues to allow states to waive essential health benefits as
13 provided under the Affordable Care Act, continually placing
14 many people at risk of losing the most basic healthcare
15 benefits such as maternity care, mental health care, substance
16 abuse and opioid treatment, and pharmacy benefits; and

17 WHEREAS, The true intention of both policies are revealed
18 in the provisions that create financial incentives for states
19 to increase Medicaid redeterminations in order to kick people
20 off of the Medicaid program, and financial incentives for
21 states to reduce the amount of healthcare services provided by
22 Medicaid; and

1 WHEREAS, The Governor has yet to officially take a position
2 on the American Health Care Act or the Better Care
3 Reconciliation Act of 2017, despite the fact that both stand to
4 negatively affect millions of Illinois residents and cause
5 major financial harm to the State's budget and the broader
6 system of healthcare across Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, When the Governor has been asked to provide a
8 position on the American Health Care Act or the Better Care
9 Reconciliation Act of 2017, he has continually dodged the
10 question, refused to provide a direct answer, or attempted to
11 circumvent any responsibility for these proposed policies; and

12 WHEREAS, As the Governor has the supreme executive power in
13 the State under the Illinois Constitution, it is imperative
14 that he directly provide guidance to our Congressional
15 delegation and the people of Illinois regarding his position on
16 the American Healthcare Act and the Better Care Reconciliation
17 Act of 2017, both of which will have a disastrous effect on the
18 poorest and neediest persons in the State and will devastate
19 the critical social safety net they rely on; and

20 WHEREAS, Medicare is a federal health insurance program
21 that currently pays for a variety of health care expenses for
22 senior citizens aged 65 and older and people with certain other
23 qualifying conditions only; and

1 WHEREAS, Medicare currently insures over 55 million
2 Americans, and nearly everyone over age 65; in Illinois alone,
3 over 2 million people receive Medicare benefits; and

4 WHEREAS, There have been recent legislative efforts at the
5 federal level to expand Medicare for all persons in the United
6 States, not just those currently eligible which would provide
7 coverage for all medically necessary services, including
8 doctors' visits, hospital care, prevention programs, long-term
9 care, mental health, reproductive health care, dental, vision,
10 prescription drug, and medical supply costs; and

11 WHEREAS, Children (unmarried and under age 22) can only
12 receive Medicare if they are disabled or have a qualifying
13 condition and make up less than 7% of the current population of
14 people on Medicare; and

15 WHEREAS, Expanding the federal Medicare program to those
16 who need care the most can be a positive step to strengthen our
17 nation's commitment to improving the health and safety of all
18 Americans and reduce the risk of cuts posed by the AHCA and the
19 Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017, to those that are most
20 vulnerable; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
2 strongly urge the federal government, the United States
3 Congress, and the President of the United States, to oppose the
4 American Health Care Act, the Better Care Reconciliation Act of
5 2017, or any other legislative efforts that would reduce access
6 to healthcare for low-income and at-risk populations and to
7 expand the federal Medicare program for people most in need
8 especially children, women, and those with pre-existing
9 conditions, that are put at extreme risk as a result of passage
10 of either the American Health Care Act or the Better Care
11 Reconciliation Act of 2017; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we strongly urge the Governor of the state
13 of Illinois to be responsive to the needs of Illinois residents
14 and directly engage with the President of the United States,
15 and Republican members of the Illinois Congressional
16 delegation regarding the devastating consequences associated
17 with both the American Health Care Act and the Better Care
18 Reconciliation Act of 2017; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
20 delivered to the Governor of the State of Illinois, the
21 Illinois Congressional delegation, the United States Congress,
22 and the President of the United States."