

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The right to a healthy life is one of the most
3 basic of all rights; and

4 WHEREAS, One million five hundred thousand Illinoisians
5 are over the age of 65 years; Medicare alone is unable to
6 support the health care needs of such a large population;
7 many seniors have fixed incomes and cannot afford rising
8 health care costs, including the costs of prescription
9 medications and other treatments that are not covered by
10 Medicare; and

11 WHEREAS, Five million eight hundred thousand people in
12 the United States are in long-term care; long-term care costs
13 approximately \$50,000 per year per patient, and thus seniors
14 in long-term care are often forced to impoverish themselves,
15 losing not only their assets, but also lifetimes of memories;
16 in addition, many seniors are forced to leave their homes
17 prematurely and enter long-term care facilities because they
18 are denied home health care services; and

19 WHEREAS, Seniors with diminished mental and physical
20 capacities are targets for financial, physical, and emotional
21 elder abuse that negatively affects their health; and

22 WHEREAS, Seniors are often treated by different doctors
23 who do not know the medical histories of their patients, thus
24 further reducing the continuity and resulting quality of care
25 for seniors; and

26 WHEREAS, Seniors are presented with a confusing maze of
27 health care laws and regulations, both federal and state,
28 thus making it difficult for them to have access to accurate
29 information relating to their coverage and rights; and

30 WHEREAS, Many seniors are, therefore, currently not
31 receiving the quality of health care that they deserve as a

1 basic right; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 it is the goal of the House of Representatives that every
5 senior in Illinois receive the best possible health care and
6 that, in order to achieve this goal, the House of
7 Representatives finds and declares that seniors ought to have
8 all of the following rights with regard to health care:

9 (1) Every senior should be entitled to access
10 affordable, high-quality, and expedient health care,
11 including prescription medication, hospitalization, mental
12 health care, orthotics, dental care, vision care,
13 gender-specific medical care, and long-term care;

14 (2) Every senior should be entitled to continuity with
15 respect to his or her health care;

16 (3) Every senior should be entitled to safe and clean
17 environments in assisted living and long-term health care
18 facilities;

19 (4) Every senior should be entitled to access to home
20 health care.

21 (5) Every senior should be entitled to accessible and
22 legible information about health care and accompanying
23 rights;

24 (6) Every senior should be entitled to information and
25 easy access to a knowledgeable advocate who is capable of
26 assisting seniors who are disabled by illness; and

27 (7) Every senior should be entitled to protection from

1 financial, emotional, and physical elder abuse.