

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Over 2,000,000 unique individuals per year rely
3 on the Illinois Medicaid program for their health insurance
4 needs, including long term care; and

5 WHEREAS, Due to extended payment cycles and inadequate
6 reimbursement rates, 27 long term care facilities closed in
7 Illinois in 2002 due to financial difficulties and additional
8 facilities have notified the Department of Public Aid that
9 they will be filing for bankruptcy in 2003; and

10 WHEREAS, In an effort to address funding inequities,
11 members of the Illinois House of Representatives conducted a
12 statewide hearing on Medicaid reimbursements to nursing homes
13 during the summer and fall of 2001; and

14 WHEREAS, As a result of those hearings, bipartisan
15 legislation to update the reimbursement system to reflect
16 data collected under the Minimum Data Set (MDS) passed the
17 Illinois General Assembly unanimously during the 92nd General
18 assembly and was signed into law as P.A. 92-848; and

19 WHEREAS, The new reimbursement system based on the MDS
20 assessment will ensure that Medicaid funding is distributed
21 based on the need of long term care residents instead of
22 being distributed under an old, faulted system which resulted
23 in funding inequities; and

24 WHEREAS, The new reimbursement system is required by law
25 to be implemented by July 1, 2003, including a 2-year hold
26 harmless provision to ensure that no facility receives less
27 funding than that facility would have received under the old
28 system; and

29 WHEREAS, Recent efforts have attempted to delay the date
30 of the implementation of the new system, endangering the care
31 provided to long term care residents; and

1 WHEREAS, Other recent efforts have also sought to
2 increase the long term care provider bed tax (granny tax)
3 from the current charge of \$1.50 per bed per day up to as
4 much as the \$6.50 per bed per day allowable under federal
5 law; and

6 WHEREAS, An increase in the bed tax would be especially
7 difficult for facilities that have already depleted lines of
8 credit to pay payroll and other facility costs; therefore, be
9 it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we oppose any efforts to delay the implementation of the MDS
13 long term care reimbursement system as required under the
14 provisions of P.A. 92-848; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we oppose efforts to increase the nursing
16 home provider bed tax; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the Governor of Illinois and the Director of
19 Public Aid.